

Thatcher told by Murray to honour agreement

By Paul Routledge, Labour Editor

Mr Len Murray, general secretary of the TUC, made a personal appeal to the Prime Minister yesterday to reverse Cabinet policy on the Civil Service pay dispute.

In a letter to Mrs Margaret Thatcher he urged her to restore public confidence in "the vital importance of honouring agreements" by taking urgent practical steps to respect and abide by the terms of the undertakings previously given to civil servants.

The text of the letter was released as relations within the Civil Service deteriorated yet further.

There is a risk that flights into and out of Prestwick airport, Scotland, could be affected today by a 12-hour official stoppage of 25 maintenance engineers who man the air traffic control centre there, if it breaks down there will be no one available to repair it.

In his letter, Mr Murray expressed grave concern over recent developments in the dispute and asked her to reconsider urgently the Government's rigid stance over negotiations with the Civil Service unions.

"My concern is not prompted by any wish to single out civil servants for special or discriminatory treatment in any way," he wrote. "Indeed, my anxiety is in large measure stimulated by the far reaching and damaging effects which your government's actions could have on the conduct of

industrial relations more generally."

He recalled that for 30 years there had been widespread recognition of the need to supplement bargaining in the Civil Service with agreed, independent mechanisms for fair comparisons with the private sector.

The Government's actions in scrapping those mechanisms and refusing arbitration, if not rapidly reversed, "will cause long-term damage to industrial and indeed more generally."

The Civil Service Department in a letter to the unions said: "As a civil servant cannot be absent without authority and at the same time on annual leave, all annual leave authorized for staff who strike is immediately cancelled."

In Hull, about 110 staff at four employment offices walked out on strike in protest at the threatened suspension of civil servants for refusing to operate emergency procedures to ensure that the unemployed get their benefit.

Learn drivers whose first provisional licenses are being held up by the Civil Service dispute will be able to drive without them from about the end of July.

Mr Norman Fowler, Minister of Transport last night, tabled a special clause in his Transport Bill which will allow about 200,000 people to start to drive, so long as they have posted their application forms.

Town hall staffs will strike against Heseltine cuts

From David Felton, Labour Reporter, Blackpool

The biggest union representing town hall staff set course yesterday for a confrontation with the Government over cuts being demanded in local council spending.

The National and Local Government Officers' Association (NALGO) pledged to take industrial action against councils who agreed to the £450m spending cuts demanded last week by Mr Michael Heseltine, Secretary of State for the Environment.

Delegates at the union's conference in Blackpool yesterday unanimously agreed an emergency motion calling on the traditionally non-political union to join forces with Labour groups on councils and with other unions in the fight against the Government's cuts.

Mr Heseltine announced last week that unless "profligate" councils were prepared to cut their spending he would consider introducing legislation to enforce reductions.

The industrial action is likely to take the form of one-day strikes similar to the stoppage earlier this week by 2,000 white collar staff at the Lothian

Regional Council in Scotland which has been ordered by the Government to cut its spending by 10 per cent.

Delegates were told by Mr William Gill, for the union executive, that the call for industrial action would be the leadership's "number one priority" in the coming weeks. He said the Government was making "vicious attacks on the public services and insidious erosions of local government powers."

Yesterday's decision means that the union's 780,000 members are committed to "a more active involvement in the political campaign against the Government's present strategy". The conference also called on the union leadership to coordinate the campaign with the TUC, Labour Party and local Labour groups to oppose the cuts.

Mr James White, of the union's Scottish district council, said the cuts being demanded of the Lothian council would lead to a loss of more than 4,000 jobs because under Scottish law the council was not able to raise a supplementary rate.

On the penultimate day of the general election campaign, on Tuesday, Mr Charles Haughey, Prime Minister of the Irish Republic touring Carrigaline, co Cork.

Haughey version of Maze fast pact

From Christopher Thomas, Dublin

Mr Charles Haughey, Prime Minister of the Irish Republic, said yesterday that an agreed settlement between prisoners at the Maze prison and the Northern Ireland prison authorities ended the 53-day fast by seven men shortly before Christmas.

His claim is in sharp contrast to the British Government's insistence that there was no deal. It ended on the basis of certain statements made by the prison authorities to the prisoners, Mr Haughey said. There had been an agreed settlement.

His remarks came on the last day of electioneering before the republic's general election. He made his comments almost as an aside at his final election press conference; they seemed accidental rather than calculated.

Nevertheless, his claim has

introduced, however mildly, the first anti-British flavour into the three-week campaign by the three main parties. He went on to say that the republic's Government had played an important part in settling the fast. "After that settlement most people were optimistic about the situation, but unfortunately it went backwards, again."

He made a clear reference to the informal prison regime adopted at Portlaoise prison in the republic, where IRA men have a large measure of freedom to run their own lives.

His obvious message was that something similar ought to be operated at the Maze. "We have a satisfactory, flexible approach," he said. "We have pointed out to the British on a number of occasions what we do here. There are changes that could be made

to make the system more acceptable and more humanitarian."

Mr Haughey's remarks about an agreed settlement reflect the consistent claims of the prisoners that there was a verbal understanding about the introduction of a more liberal prison regime at the Maze. The British Government's standpoint is that the prisoners were told merely what facilities and privileges were already available to conforming inmates.

The H-blocks affair has not been an important election issue.

The first results of the election will be known tomorrow, but it may be early on Saturday before a definite picture emerges. The opinion polls indicate a close finish.

Leading article, page 17

Normal work pledge ends Times dispute

By Donald Macintyre, Labour Reporter

The closure threat facing Times Newspapers was lifted yesterday after local representatives of the Society of Graphical and Allied Trades agreed to work normally on The Sunday Times this weekend.

Mr Rupert Murdoch, owner of the papers, had made it clear he would shut both The Times and The Sunday Times if publishing room members of the union repeated disruptive action, which cost 400,000 copies of The Sunday Times last weekend.

Sogat branch and chapel (office branch) officers agreed yesterday to withdraw their threat to hold a mandatory chapel meeting from 6 pm on Saturday after an 80-minute meeting with Times management at Grays Inn Road yesterday afternoon.

More than 300 Sogat members walked out in the early hours of Sunday in pursuit of a differential pay claim, with the result that most of the main print for London and the South East was not distributed.

Talks on the claim between management and both local and national union officials are to reopen next week under the terms of a joint statement agreed yesterday which committed the chapel to observing the company's agreed dispute procedure.

The Sogat grievance arose as a result of an offer made to

members of the National Society of Operative Printers Graphical and Media Personnel (Natsopa) on The Sunday Times. It was intended to resolve a long standing claim over differentials with machine room members of the National Graphical Association.

The offer, which is expected to be put to Natsopa members later this week, provides for 36 brake hands, including nine who work in The Sunday Times publishing room, 87.5 per cent of the NGA machine minder's rate of £106.31 for a shift. A further 313 machine room members of Natsopa would receive 80 per cent of the Sogat chapel officials reacted to the offer, which they claimed should not have been made without consultations with their own union, by claiming increases similar to those of S&G offered to the brake hands.

The joint agreement signed yesterday by unions and management says: "The union guarantees that full normal working and full compliance with the Procedures for the Avoidance of Disputes Agreement will now prevail."

Mr Gerald Long, managing director of Times Newspapers, said last night that he was "extremely pleased" that good sense had prevailed. He added: "We do not see it as a victory but if we had not got a sensible agreement it would have been a defeat for everybody."

MP pledges to move Ulster writ

By George Clark, Political Correspondent

If the Government delays the by-election in Fermanagh and South Tyrone beyond the normal three-month period after the death of Robert Sands, the IRA hunger striker, Mr David Thomas, Plaid Cymru MP for Merioneth, will move in the House of Commons for the writ to be issued.

He has made that clear in a statement to his constituency committee at Dolgellau in which he replies to what he calls the "ill informed and deliberately misleading criticisms" made against his attack on the Government for its handling of the hunger-strike issue.

Even though the Government may use its majority to vote down his motion, Mr Thomas said he would continue with his motion of action. "I believe that it would be a very dangerous precedent for democracy if the Government were to try to stop an election taking place, or stop a candidate being elected because the Government did not agree with the result."

Mr Iwan Wyn Jones, the chairman of Plaid Cymru, said, however, that he had written to Mr Thomas urging him not to carry out his intention.

Mr Jones added that his disagreement with Mr Thomas was only on the question of tactics. He said he would write to the minister yesterday that the fact that the democratic system was being brought into question in this way "shows how the whole of our politics has been affected by the violence."

In government quarters yesterday it was confirmed that Mr William Whitelaw, Home Secretary, intends to bring in a short Bill for passage during the present session of Parliament, which will disqualify a convicted criminal who is serving a term of more than a year from membership of the Commons (Philip Webster writes).

The Shadow Cabinet will not support the proposed Bill disqualifying convicted criminals from membership of the Commons (Philip Webster writes).

Mr David Shand, aged 38, a local government officer, will fight a by-election for a seat on Geddisfield, District Council, County Durham, on July 2. Mr James Mead, aged 53, a shipyard shop steward, is contesting a vacancy in the Walkergate ward on Newcastle City Council on July 16.

GRIMSBY MP RESELECTED

Mr Austin Mitchell, the Labour MP for Grimsby, who claimed he was on a left-wing "hit list", has been chosen to fight the seat at the next General Election. He was supported by all branches of the local party.

Mr Eric Ogden and Mr John Saver, who were among 150 MPs who signed "Backpack" drafted by Mr Mitchell expressing concern at changes in the party's constitution, failed to be re-elected by their constituency parties after their names were listed in a left-wing journal.

Petrol prices vary by 40p a gallon

By Peter Waymark, Motoring Correspondent

A survey of petrol prices in Britain this week reveals a difference of as much as 40p for a gallon of four star. Prices ranged from 143p a gallon in some city centres to 186p on the island of Colonsay in the Western Isles.

Motorists in the midlands appear to be enjoying some of the cheapest petrol, with prices of 143p a gallon common in towns like Leicester, Nottingham and Northampton. In the Manchester area, where price capping is fierce, petrol is available at 146p.

The cost of sending petrol by sea in 50 gallon drums from Penzance means that motorists on the Isle of Scilly have to pay 185p. Petrol also has to be shipped in drums to Colonsay, where it is sold at an hotel. There are only 35 cars on the island.

Rural filling stations tend to charge higher prices than town sites, partly because they have less competition, but also because of their relatively greater overheads. Rural stations also bear higher transport costs.

Higher than average prices are also charged on motorway service areas.

Typical suburban London prices are between 149p and 150p but on the edge of the capital it is possible to buy four star for 146p. On the other extreme, filling stations in central London and the City are charging as much as 160p.

'Listener' dispute is settled

The Listener and the Radio Times, which have not been published for the past two weeks because of industrial action by journalists, will be back on the newsstands soon. The BBC said last night that it and the National Union of Journalists had met the Advisory, Conciliation and Arbitration Service yesterday and agreed a new offer. The union will recommend its members to return to work. The dispute has been about gradings.

The 55 journalists employed on the two magazines and on the staff magazine Ariel as well as on BBC educational publications say they have been negotiating for more pay for seven months. They are seeking a salary of £5,000 compared with £9,000 on the rival TV Times.

CLOSED SHOP MOVE BY MPs

Conservative backbenchers have written to the Prime Minister urging her to resist the pressure of other parliamentary business and to include a new measure on curbing the closed shop in the Government's programme for the next session (Our Political Staff writes).

A motion put down by Mr Gervard Neale, MP for Cornwall North, and backed by Sir Angus Maude, Mr Reg Prentice and Mr Marcus Fox, all former ministers, has prompted confidence among MPs that this will come next session.

WILDLIFE BILL CLIMBDOWN

The Government has withdrawn its proposed amendments to the section of the Wildlife and Countryside Bill dealing with marine mammals reserves (Our Planning Reporter writes).

The amendments would have removed controls on commercial fishing, dredging and the dumping of waste; reduced the seaward extension of reserves from territorial limits to 1,000 metres offshore; and excluded intertidal zones.

NORWICH KEEPS TWO MPs

Norwich City Council yesterday won its fight to keep two MPs. The Boundary Commission agreed to the proposals to retain two Norwich seats, and created a new mid-Norfolk constituency.

Norwich will maintain its MPs for Norwich North and South and the extra seat will give the county six MPs instead of five.

CORRECTION

The report on June 5 of a speech by Tom King, Minister for Local Government, was incorrect. Services in which he said he was a believer in public expenditure, should have made clear that he was disagreeing with an extract from a speech by the late Anthony Crosland, then a Labour Cabinet Minister.

Sale room

Monroe's pink bra goes back to US

By Geraldine Norman, Sale Room Correspondent

Sotheby's had an outstanding success with the sale of a pink mesh brassiere yesterday: estimated at £120,000, the hammer fell at £120,000. The demand was generated by nostalgia for its former owner, Miss Marilyn Monroe, the film star. Included with the bra was a beaded and silver metal bag and a pair of white evening gloves. The lot was bought by Mr Stanley Marsh III, of Toad Hall, Amarillo, Texas, as a present for his wife.

Sotheby's had also under-estimated the Monroe-appeal on a diagonally-pleated, cream chiffon evening dress, estimated at £200 to £300, it sold for £250 to Philip Green who runs the Discount Dress Shop in Conduit Street, London.

The dress was made in the 1960s for Miss Monroe by Mme de Rachelle who ran a theatrical dressmaking business in Greek Street, Soho. She had consigned both the dress and the bra for sale, history—or at least Sotheby's catalogue—does not relate how she came by the bra. Perhaps Miss Monroe left it behind after a fitting.

The sale of costume and textiles at Sotheby's, Belgrave, totalled £45,309 with 12 per cent unsold. The Victoria and Albert Museum paid the top price in the sale at £1,300 (estimate £800-£1,000) for a very finely embroidered, pale blue silk kimono dated the first half of the nineteenth century, and the Netherlands Museum of Costume in the Hague paid £1,050 (estimate £500-£700) for a Fortuny "Delphos" dress trimmed with Venetian beads and the fra for a fur-trimmed coat around 1914.

Sotheby's in Bond Street were selling modern British pictures and sculpture, achieving a total of £282,088 with 11 per cent unsold. The press and television for Munglin's horseshoes was again underlined with top price of £30,000 (estimate £20,000-£30,000) for "The Steeplechase Start", paid by Richard Green, the London dealer.

Cr also purchased a romantic portrait of Nelly Gray, a beautiful gipsy, in a rich red, silk dress at £15,000 (estimate £14,000-£18,000) on behalf of the Mummings Museum in Dedham, Essex. Another notable price was the £19,000 (estimate £10,000-£15,000) paid by Anthony D'Ottavio for Charles Glinner's "Flask Walk, Hamstead", an auction record for the artist. A Glinner study of "A munitions filling factory at Bedford" of 1916 made a surprise £15,000 (estimate £14,000-£15,000).

In general, pictures of quality ran beyond estimate and lesser works attracted little or no bidding, irrespective of the artist. Stanley Spencer's notable "The Road to 1927" made £8,000 (estimate £3,000-£4,000).

At Christie's Venetian books from the collection of John A. Saks, a former director of the famous Saks, Fifth Avenue, dress shop, brought £26,665 with 6 per cent unsold. They had been sent to London for sale on account of their obvious European interest. Nevertheless, the top price was paid by Breslauer, of New York, at £9,000 (estimate £1,500-£2,400) for the 1745 illustrated edition of Tasso's Gerusalemme Liberata.

Christie's silver sale made £159,190 with 18 per cent unsold.

SUTCLIFFE CONTEMPT RULED OUT

By a Staff Reporter

Sir Michael Havers, QC, the Attorney General, said yesterday that he was not prepared to take legal action against any newspaper, television or radio station for contempt of court over reporting the arrest of Peter Sutcliffe, the Yorkshire Ripper.

Legal proceedings were not necessary to remind editors of their responsibilities. There was a public debate after Mr Sutcliffe's arrest and interest in the Contempt of Court Bill had also led to a better understanding of the need to restrict discussion of crimes.

Sir Michael was replying to Mr Edward Gardiner, Conservative MP for South Fylde.

Overseas selling prices
Australia 100.00
Belgium 100.00
Canada 100.00
France 100.00
Germany 100.00
Italy 100.00
Japan 100.00
Netherlands 100.00
Portugal 100.00
Spain 100.00
Sweden 100.00
Switzerland 100.00
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Published daily except Sundays, 1 December 1980 and 1 January 1981. Prices for overseas subscribers are given in pounds sterling. All prices are net of VAT. All subscription rates are per annum.

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Prisoners on parole go abroad for work

By Peter Evans, Home Affairs Correspondent

Prisoners released on parole are being granted permission to work abroad because of lack of jobs in Britain. The absence of proper supervision of the successful applicants who go overseas is a concern of the Parole Board and published yesterday in its annual report.

The report says: "The supervision of a parolee by a probation officer during the parole period is an essential part of the scheme."

Asked which people are given permission, Lord Harris of Greenwich, the board's chairman, told *The Times*: "We look at the circumstances of each case: how he has responded to supervision, whether there is a genuine job offer. We are in the business of rehabilitation. If a man is to be employed rather than unemployed, we think that is a good thing to be."

Lord Harris could not say how many prisoners on parole had been allowed to work abroad but they were "more than a handful". They are believed to be mainly in Western Europe.

The report speaks of "an increase in the number of requests from people on parole to travel abroad in order to take up offers of work". The board recognizes that to grant permission inevitably

interferes with the supervisory aspect of parole."

The report says that where the board thinks the risk to be acceptable, "it is right to take account of the licensee's prospects of rehabilitation. On balance, it is likely that unsupervised employment would be more conducive to this end than supervised unemployment, but the board will continue to consider each case solely on its merits."

Without supervision, however, the board cannot know if the prisoner infringes the terms of his licence and should be recalled to prison. Mr Roy Jenkins, then Home Secretary, assured the Commons in December, 1966, that the power to revoke a licence would be exercised on the basis of reports reaching the Home Secretary about the prisoner's behaviour, and, in particular, from the supervising probation officer.

While permission is being given to some prisoners to take what the report calls "unsupervised employment" abroad, others, not so lucky, who remain in Britain risk being recalled to prison if they are "out of touch". It was the biggest single reason last year for recall of prisoners serving determinate sentences.

Out of 445 recalled, 214 were for being out of touch and in some cases for other breaches

of licence conditions; and of those, 69 had committed further offences while at large.

The report says that the number of prisoners granted parole in 1980 rose to a level achieved only in 1977, and there had been no rise in the rate of recall to prison: 8.7 per cent of prisoners with a determinate sentence finally recommended for parole.

In 1980 the 5,077 prisoners granted parole represented 50.4 per cent of the cases considered.

The report says that ministers have been invited to consider options designed to effect the earlier referral to the board of higher risk, longer sentence cases.

If the Government implements its idea of an early release scheme for prisoners serving shorter sentences, that could reduce the board's work, leaving extra time to consider more difficult cases.

Report of the Parole Board, 1980 (Stationery Office, £4).

Mr Patrick Mayhew, Minister of State at the Home Office, announced in the Commons yesterday that the extension of the tougher regimes pilot project to Easton Hall junior detention centre, Derbyshire (for 14 to 16-year-olds) and Haslar senior detention centre, near Gosport, Hampshire (for 17 to 20-year-olds) will be introduced in September.



Bridging the gap: Police bringing a patient to the Glasgow Royal Infirmary yesterday when ambulances in the city went on the first of their 24-hour lightning strikes.

Rates rising faster than income tax

By Christopher Warman, Local Government Correspondent

An analysis of local authority rate yields in the last five years shows that rates have risen slightly faster than income tax but only two-thirds as much as value-added tax yields.

The figures are included in rating statistics published yesterday by the Chartered Institute of Public Finance and Accountancy.

Between 1974-75 and 1979-80, the yield from rates increased from £3,245m to £5,837m, income tax from £10,271m to £20,599m, and VAT from £2,506m to £8,179m.

The accompanying table indicates that while the rate yield has increased by 111 per cent, income tax yield is up by 101 per cent and VAT by 226 per cent over the five-year period.

The statistics show that while domestic ratepayers bear 48.5 per cent of the rate burden throughout England and Wales, the figure for householders in inner London is only 25.9 per cent, compared with 55.7 per cent in outer London, 49.4 per cent in the metropolitan districts, 54.3 per cent in English shire districts and 47.3 per cent in Wales.

The final percentage paid by householders is slightly smaller in each case because of domestic rate relief.

Industrial users in inner London pay only 3.1 per cent, and the main burden here is on offices, which provide 37.5 per cent, compared with an overall average of 8.5 per cent. Industry overall pays 10.7 per cent—10.4 per cent in outer London, 14.5 per cent in the metropolitan districts, 11.4 per cent in the shire districts and 15.1 per cent in Wales.

The total number of hereditaments in England and Wales at April 1, 1980, was 22.1m. Local authorities sent out 4.1m reminders to pay, and issued just over 1m summonses for non-payment, of which 496,717 led to court hearings and 287,437 led to distress warrants being passed to bailiffs.

On average rates cost 1.6 per cent of the total yield to collect. (Rate Collection Statistics, 1979-80 Actuals, Chartered Institute of Public Finance and Accountancy, 1, Buckingham Place, London SW1E 6HS, £10.)

INCREASE IN TAXES			
	Rates	tax	VAT
1974-75	100	100	100
1975-76	130	148	138
1976-77	142	168	150
1977-78	161	170	169
1978-79	180	183	193
1979-80	211	201	226

King and Thatcher condemn raid

By David Spanier, Richard Owen and Craig Seton

King Khalid of Saudi Arabia had substantive discussions on the Middle East with Mrs Margaret Thatcher yesterday during his state visit to Britain.

The talks, which lasted an hour, took as their starting point the Israeli attack on the Iraqi nuclear plant and its serious consequences.

The Israeli action is seen by the Saudis as the greatest possible outrage, as King Khalid made clear. The Prime Minister had already made her views known in the Commons and was able to assure the King of Britain's strong condemnation.

Further discussions may be held today between Lord Carrington, the Foreign Secretary, and Prince Sultan, the Saudi Defence Minister, who both attended yesterday's meeting. Prince Saud, the Saudi Foreign Minister, is understood to be in Baghdad for the gathering of Arab foreign ministers.

With Britain taking over the presidency of the European Economic Community next month, the Saudis are concerned that Britain should give a strong lead in pursuing European diplomatic efforts in the Middle East. But until the repercussions of the Israeli

attack have been fully registered in the United Nations and the Middle East, the Europeans may be forced to mark time.

Lord Carrington has been a principal supporter of the European role, as the Saudis appreciate, and is anxious to make a contribution. The EEC is due to take stock of its Middle East efforts at the end of June.

The Downing Street talks were followed by a lunch for about 60 people given in King Khalid's honour by Mrs Thatcher. Among the guests were bankers and industrialists, representatives from Asprey's, the jewellers, the British Falcon Club, the Jockey Club and National Stud and other walks of life likely to be of interest to the Saudis.

Last night the King attended a reception and banquet at Guildhall where the Lord Mayor of London, Sir Ronald Gardner-Thorpe, said it was a source of great pride that the "great

institutions, banks and business houses" of London had been able to take part in Saudi Arabia's thriving economic development.

King Khalid in his reply referred to the visit of his predecessor, King Faisal, to London in 1967 and said that his own visit to what he called "your great metropolis" was yet another step towards reinforcing the strong relationship between Saudi Arabia and Great Britain.

This morning he will leave Buckingham Palace by helicopter and fly to the National Stud at Newmarket for a short visit before lunching at the Jockey Club there.

The Saudis are becoming increasingly interested in horse-racing and thoroughbred. The King will be shown the four stables in residence, Mill Reef, Grundy, Blakeney and Star Appeal, three of them Derby winners.

Two hours after the luncheon, the King will return to Buckingham Palace and tonight he will give a banquet at Claridge's. Tomorrow he will leave Heathrow in his personal Boeing 747. Court Circular, page 18

Scarman appeals for cooperation

By Lucy Hodges

Lord Scarman, chairman of the Brixton riot inquiry, which starts on Monday, appealed for cooperation yesterday. A call from the Brixton Defence Campaign for people to boycott the inquiry would help neither Brixton nor the nation, he said.

There are signs, however, that the call is having some effect. Last night Lambeth Community Relations Council was reconsidering its decision to give evidence.

In a statement published yesterday Lord Scarman said it was not a police inquiry but an inquiry into policing and the immunity against prosecution given to those appearing before the inquiry was as wide as any immunity granted in similar inquiries.

"I have not known it lead to victimisation or to be inadequate as a protection for those who give evidence", he said.

"I also intend that evidence given at hearings of the inquiry

will avoid the identification of individuals. Moreover, hearsay evidence will be allowed, so that it will be possible for leaders of the community to give evidence on behalf of others without the risk of the latter being identified."

Third, the issue of identification did not arise in phase two of the inquiry, on the underlying causes of the riot, because Lord Scarman said he intended to conduct that phase on the basis of written statements. He added that he would also meet people from different sections of the Brixton community.

This is the first time Lord Scarman has talked about informal meetings and they are likely to be welcomed. It has been made clear that the inquiry would not hear from Brixton's youths, some of whom were involved in the riot, unless he made such a move.

The youths say they are frightened that if they are identified they will be beaten up by the police.

Lord Scarman also answers critics who have asked what good can come out of the inquiry. He says the inquiry is independent and there will be no whitewash "but only a conscientious search for the truth and a solution".

The inquiry would give Brixton a chance to be heard nationally and to point the way to the solution.

Lord Scarman said the response from the public so far had been heartening. More than 150 people and organizations have offered to give evidence.

The Brixton Defence Campaign is a body which aims to represent the Brixton community and which last week prepared a long statement on why the inquiry should be boycotted.

Body was hidden under floor

From Our Correspondent, Sheffield

Terence Rogerson, aged 26, rebelled against the dominance of Mrs Emily Ball, a widow, aged 72, and killed her.

He hid her body under floorboards at her home, covered it with concrete and pretended she was still alive, continuing to collect her pension.

Mr Rogerson, a South Yorkshire County Council highways surveyor, of Macaulay Crescent, Armthorpe, Doncaster, pleaded guilty yesterday to murdering Mrs Ball of Dore Lane, Bentley, Doncaster.

Mr Justice Mustill at Sheffield Crown Court sentenced him to life imprisonment. Mr Frank Muller QC, for the Crown, said Mrs Ball was killed in her bedroom last July and buried at the bottom of the stairs.

Mrs Ball seems to have taken a liking to Mr Rogerson and he visited the house nearly every day, doing odd jobs", Mr Muller said. He let people believe he was her grandson.

He tried to suppress the foul smell of the body with fly spray, but neighbours noted the odour and told the police, who went to the house last November.

Mr Rogerson told police she was getting at him and he hit her with a hammer.

Mr Harry O'Neill QC, for the defence, said Mr Rogerson was "a likable, pleasant young man, who panicked".

Rampton nurse cleared

From Our Correspondent, Nottingham

Harry Dexter, a Rampton nurse, who was said to have struck a brain-damaged patient, was cleared by a jury at Nottingham Crown Court yesterday.

Mr Dexter, aged 59, was acquitted of a charge of ill-treating Mr Richard Winnik, aged 27, who is mentally ill and an epileptic.

Mr David Wilcock, for the prosecution, said that Mr Dexter hit Mr Winnik on the

ear in the hospital's teaching unit on February 5, 1979, because he had been cheeky to a remedial teacher.

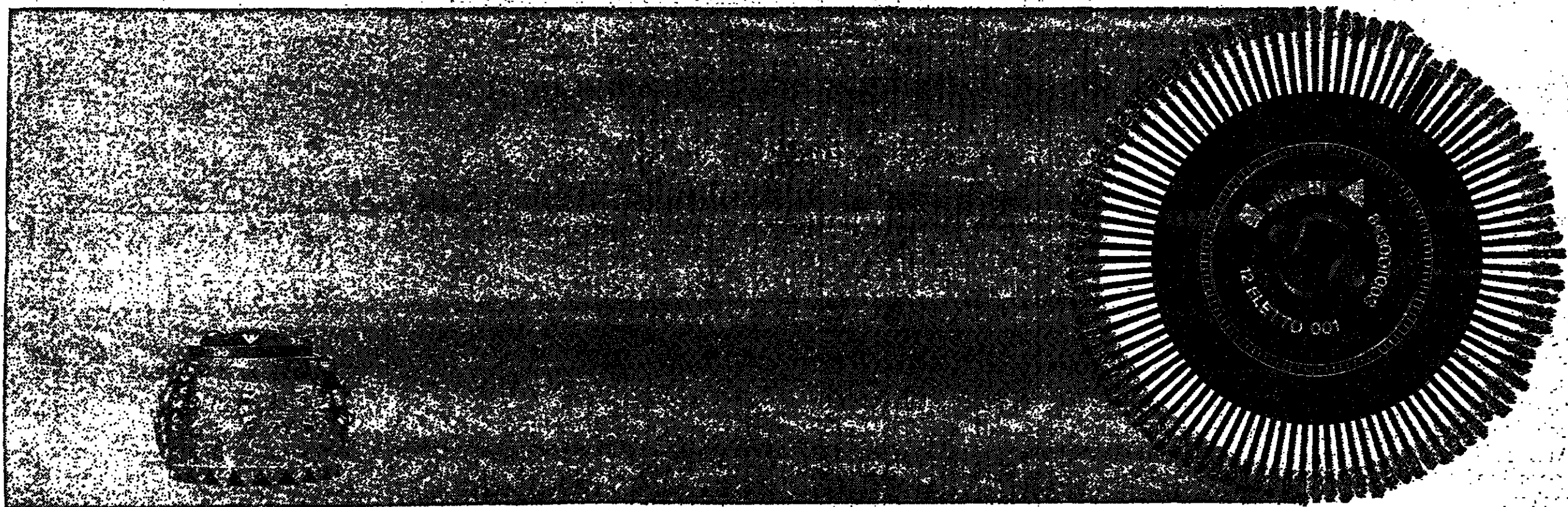
Mr Dexter said he caught the patient by the collar and told him not to be silly. "It was only a trivial incident," he said.

Mr Dexter is the third nurse to be acquitted by courts since a police investigation at the high-security hospital.

NURSES TOLD 6% IS THE LIMIT

Nurses' leaders were told yesterday that no extra money is available to improve their 6 per cent pay offer.

Mr Patrick Jenkin, Secretary of State for Social Services, said higher pay awards for public sector workers, however deserving, could not be paid without cutting essential services. The nursing organisations are to ask their members if they wish to continue negotiating within the 6 per cent cash limit.



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Whitelaw attacks political control of police

From Arthur Osman, Eastbourne

The stage is set for a clash at Eastbourne today between chief constables and Labour councillors anxious to tighten controls on police work. Mr William Whitelaw, Home Secretary, yesterday gave a firm warning about political interference with the police.

Mr Whitelaw told the joint conference of the Association of Chief Police Officers, the Association of County Councils and the Association of Metropolitan Authorities: "I think most people in this country would agree that it is highly desirable that the enforcement of the criminal law should not be subject to political control or influence."

"As Home Secretary I cannot give direction to chief constables on operational matters and neither can police authorities. As practical politicians most of us would not want this power."

"I do not believe the majority of people in this country would welcome or would tolerate the situation in which local or national politicians could direct the police operations or influence decisions on who should be prosecuted for a criminal offence. And, let us be clear, the kind of powers over the police which are being sought in some quarters would make this possible."

"The present constitutional arrangements for the police service are designed to minimize the risk of political control or interference of this kind."

Mr Whitelaw recalled that last year he called for police authorities to see themselves not just as providers of resources but as a means whereby the chief constable could give account of his policing policy to the community's elected representatives.

Stern seeks release from £100m bankruptcy

William George Stern, aged 45, who has been described as the world's biggest bankrupt with debts of more than £100m applied for discharge at London Bankruptcy Court yesterday.

Mr John O'Reilly, the Official Receiver, said Mr Stern went bankrupt in 1978 with debts estimated at £104m. Extra claims had come in and the debts were now estimated at £118,690,524. Mr Stern, of West Heath Avenue, Golders Green, London, was said to have assets of £211,982. Mr O'Reilly said on that basis a nominal dividend could be expected by creditors.

The Receiver said Mr Stern was born in Hungary. He left there in 1944 when the Nazis marched in, and until 1953 lived in Switzerland. He moved to America and became a naturalized American citizen in 1956.

Mr Stern came to London in 1960 after his marriage three years before. He then worked for his wife's stepfather in the



Mr Stern: Home in trust.

Freshwater Group of companies. He became joint managing director of the group but left in 1971 to set up his own property development group of nearly 200 associated companies which became known as the Wilstar Group.

The Receiver said Mr Stern gave personal guarantees totaling more than £100m to firms which lent him group money. At that time his personal assets, other than his interest in the Wilstar Group, did not exceed £200,000. Mr Stern had said the people from whom he was borrowing money knew he did not have the assets to back up his guarantees, but had sought them to insure his commitment to the companies being lent money.

Mr Stern suffered from liquidity problems, and although attempts were made both by his family to avoid bankruptcy, he was eventually declared bankrupt in May, 1978.

The court heard that Mr Stern's home in Golders Green, worth more than £300,000, and the paintings, antiques, and luxurious furnishings in it, are owned by a trust set up by his father. Mr Stern had been a self-employed consultant since the bankruptcy. He earned £12,679 in 1979, £14,728 in 1980, and he estimated he would earn

£12,500 this year. His family had also helped with cash gifts of £12,000 in both 1979 and 1980 and £17,000 this year.

Mr O'Reilly revealed that the mortgage on Mr Stern's home of £5,500 a year was paid by a family trust. His household and other expenses came to about £23,400 for himself and six dependants.

Since being made bankrupt Mr Stern had paid £13,150 for creditors. He had offered to pay a further £10,000 a year for three years in support of his discharge application. His family in the United States were also prepared to pay £25,000 so that he could get his discharge.

Three of the largest creditors, the Crown Agents, Keyser Bank of Chicago, opposed the discharge. Another creditor, Barclays Bank, was also said to be opposing the discharge and the bank had written to say they regarded Mr Stern's offer to creditors as "derisory".

The hearing was adjourned to July 22.

Suspended sentence for National Theatre actor

Norman Beaton, the black actor, was given a six-month suspended prison sentence at the Central Criminal Court yesterday for dishonestly obtaining an airline ticket.

Mr Beaton, aged 46, who is the star of the BBC television series *Empire Road* and who is also appearing at the National Theatre, was in addition fined £1,000 and ordered to pay £500 compensation to a travel firm.

On Tuesday, the jury cleared Mr Beaton, of Woodfield Road, King's Heath, Birmingham, of conspiracy to defraud in connection with a cancelled tour of Britain in 1978 by Ray Charles, the jazz singer.

But he was convicted of dishonestly obtaining a first-class air ticket from Los Angeles to London which was intended to

bring Mr Charles's agent to Britain to sign contracts.

Mr Giles Forrester, for the prosecution, said the travel firm had received two worthless cheques amounting to £1,054.

Before going to the dock, Mr Beaton said with best will in the world and I sincerely regret I ever got involved with it.

His codefendant, Neville Queensgate, South Kensington, Marshall-Corbin, aged 35, of London, was also given a six-month prison sentence, suspended for two years, fined £1,000, and ordered to pay £500 compensation to the travel firm.

He had been acquitted of conspiracy to defraud but convicted of dishonestly obtaining the air ticket.

The judge was told that Mr Beaton had seven previous convictions, covering 23 offences.

IN BRIEF

Coffee morning at murder spot

In an attempt to find the killer of Mario Crofts, aged 14, whose body was discovered on Hampshire, the police will serve coffee at the murder scene this cast their minds back.

A woman police officer will retrace the girl's last known movements as she set out from her home in Basingbourne Close, Fleet, on her way to orchestra practice at Farnborough, five miles away.

More repairs to M5

The concrete section of the M5 around Taunton, Somerset, is being repaired again because water has undermined the foundations. The same trouble led to six months' reconstruction work costing £15m less than a year ago.

County bans cane

The cane was officially banned in Nottinghamshire children's homes yesterday by the new Labour-controlled county council. The council's Conservative councillors failed to get a corporal punishment retained so that the views of head teachers could be assessed.

Forged banknotes

Shopkeepers, public house managers and club owners have been warned to look for forged £10 notes circulating in the Toxteth district of Liverpool. Five have been found in the past four days.

Body fingerprinted

Fingerprints yesterday identified the mutilated body found beside a railway line in Nottinghamshire, as Mr John Cummings, aged 22, a part-time soldier, of Delaval Road, Forest Hill, Newcastle-upon-Tyne. He had been travelling by train to an Army camp.

Fire at hospital

Patients had to be moved from part of Rotherham District General Hospital after a fire swept through a corridor. It is thought the fire was caused by a discarded cigarette.

Nudists rejected

After several months of indecision, councillors in Great Yarmouth have rejected a request from the Central Council of British Nudists for a nudist beach at the Norfolk resort.

CID chief suspended

Det Chief Inspector John Drayton, head of the CID at Tower Hill, Northants, has been suspended on full pay pending an internal inquiry.



Mr Bunyan (left) and Mr Peak in their office: Claim based on Bill of Rights.

British Army illegal, radicals say

By Peter Hennessy

The British Army has been living and working in a condition of illegality for more than 25 years, according to a paper published today by Mr Tony Bunyan and Mr Steve Peak, of State Research, the radical, "whistleblowing" London-based "think tank".

Their claim, based on the Bill of Rights, 1689, is denied by the Ministry of Defence lawyers, who have seen a copy of State Research's June-July bulletin and its background paper entitled *The British Army: 25 Years of Illegality*.

The Bill of Rights, which has never been repealed, states: "The raising or keeping a standing army within the kingdom in time of peace, unless it be with consent of Parliament is against law."

Between 1689 and 1881, Parliament authorized the existence of a standing army by passing an annual Mutiny Act. Between 1881 and 1924, its maintenance was sanctioned by an Army Act passed each year.

Mr Bunyan and Mr Peak assert that the Army Act, 1955, the Air Force Act, 1955, and the Naval Discipline Act, 1957, and successive Armed Forces Acts renewed automatically to cover discipline in the services, have failed to grant the explicit annual parliamentary authorization for the existence of a standing army required by the Bill of 1689.

An early motion was tabled at the Commons yesterday entitled "Need for annual parliamentary approval of standing army". It stands under the name of Miss Jo Richardson, Labour MP for Barking, and carries the signatures of five other Labour members and Mr Dafydd Ellis

Shutdown of gas industry threatened

From Paul Routledge, Labour Editor, Brighton

Union leaders threatened yesterday to shut down the gas industry over a political storm about the proposed "privatization" of high street gas showrooms. Nearly 50,000 jobs are at risk, it was claimed.

Mr John Edmonds, national industrial officer of the General and Municipal Workers Union, warned the Government that it implemented a report by the Monopolies and Mergers Commission on the gas industry, industrial action would follow.

"We have enormous power and on an issue like this we will use it," he said.

A Cabinet committee met in Whitehall yesterday to consider the report, which says that the Gas Corporation's dominant position in the retail market for cookers, fires and water heaters is on balance, against the public interest.

Ministers are studying its two recommendations, which are that British Gas should either be banned from selling domestic appliances or face drastic restrictions on sales.

Mr Edmonds told delegates to the GMWU policy conference: "The gas industry faces an enormous threat which could cost us one third of the jobs in the industry, and many more outside."

The corporation sold 1,500,000 appliances every year and the industry believed that private retailers would not be able to match that sales record.

If gas showrooms are banned from selling British Gas appliances which make gas appliances will have to close," he said.

"That is not just my view. It is what the unions and the managers in the factories tell me."

If a sales ban was imposed the corporation's sales, transport costs and fitting work force would be decimated. "We estimate that 30,000 jobs would be lost in British Gas, plus 15,000 in appliance and component factories."

NCCL hails rejection of marches Bill clause

By Frances Gibb

MPs have rejected a controversial clause in the County of Kent Bill which would make it a criminal offence for organizers of marches not to give the police 72 hours notice or as much notice as was reasonably practicable.

The committee of four MPs under the chairmanship of Mr Thomas McNally, Labour MP for Stockport, South, unanimously voted that the clause should be dropped from the Bill in view of the possibility of national legislation on notice requirements stemming from the Green Paper on Public Order.

Their decision was hailed as a victory by a broad alliance of 12 local groups who, led by the National Council for Civil Liberties (NCCL), have opposed the Bill. They ranged from the Kent County Liberal Group and the Canterbury branch Labour Party to the Kent Graphical Society and the Campaign for Nuclear Disarmament (Maidstone).

Miss Harriet Harman, legal officer with the NCCL, said it was the first time a local authority which sought to introduce such a clause had fought it through to a Commons committee and lost.

The Bill was obliged to go to an "ad hoc committee" at which counsel for both sides gave evidence. It has already been passed by the Lords, and received its second reading in the Commons.

Mr Stephen Irwin, counsel for the NCCL, and others argued that the Kent police had failed to demonstrate the need for the notice requirement.

The clause would create a hotch-potch of local laws with different notice requirements in different counties.

Among evidence that influenced MPs in their decision was that of Mr Christopher Brown, a councillor, who said the new offence would discourage people from taking part in perfectly peaceful marches. Kent was not a trouble and strife torn part of the county.

The Green Paper on Public Order recommends a five-day national notice requirement.

US VISA DELAYS TO BE CUT

By a Staff Reporter

British visitors to the United States should experience less congestion and delay when they apply for a visa as a result of a £500,000 improvement scheme at the American Embassy in London, announced yesterday.

The scheme, the consular section, starting this month and due to finish next January, has been made necessary by the massive increase in the number of visa applications, which this year will pass one million for the first time. Only 67,000 were received when the embassy building was completed in 1967.

The chief features of the scheme will be a bigger waiting area, to prevent queuing in the street, more room for staff and separate entrances for tourists and immigrants. The floor is also being raised to lay cables for the new computerized records systems.

The embassy said there would be no disruption of visa services. An official added: "The place has become increasingly tatty, with cables hanging down and carpet torn. It should be much pleasanter and more comfortable in future."

Attempt to stop Morris home sale

By a Staff Reporter

The Government is being asked to intervene in the proposed sale of a 50-year lease on Kelmscott House, the London home of William Morris, the pre-Raphaelite painter, designer and utopian socialist, to Faye Dunaway, the American actress.

The committee of the William Morris Society is already appealing to the Charity Commission to stop the proposed transaction over the Georgian building overlooking the Thames in Hammer-smith, where Morris lived for 18 years. It says it is dictated by short-term financial considerations and will prevent members and the public from having sufficient access.

Today in the House of Lords, Lord Vauxley is to ask the Government to advise the Charity Commission that the decision to prefer "short-term financial advantage over the long-term interests of scholarship" is causing grave disquiet and will lead to litigation.

The trustees, who were appointed by the society when it was given the house in 1970, have made it clear that they have no intention of selling the freehold Kelmscott House; but they say that Miss Dunaway had made an exceptionally generous offer of £150,000 for a 50-year lease and was willing to spend a further £35,000 restoring the interior.

Furthermore, they say, she was also prepared to make one room permanently available to the society and give general access to the house for four days a year.

The society, which says it has someone prepared to buy the lease on its terms, plans to take the trustees to court.

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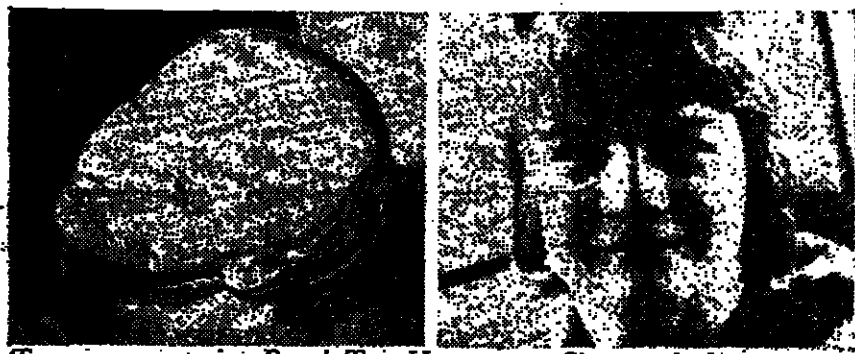
Do you realise what's going on?

Alfie is a victim of conditions in a "subnormality" hospital in Britain.

ATV's "Silent Minority" programme last night exposed how a few handicapped children face lives of unnecessary deprivation in some long-stay mental handicap hospitals - institutions ill-equipped and unsuited to their special needs.

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Move to delay fourth TV channel said to be false logic

By Kenneth Gosting

Backbench Conservative MPs who have signed an early day motion calling for the introduction of the fourth television channel to be delayed yesterday were left in no doubt yesterday that the Independent Broadcasting Authority will keep to the present timetable.

In an interview marking his first six months as chairman of the IBA, Lord Thomson of Monifieth said: "Plans are now well advanced to get it on the air in the autumn of 1982. Everything is being done to speed up the process of spending some £40m on the engineering side of things."

"I take the view that those MPs who signed the motion the other day seeking a delay in the channel are really putting forward a proposition that is on its own merits false economy."

It is falsely based as an economic proposition in seeking to halt what is now beyond the point of no return."

Lord Thomson said the argument was that the channel's introduction would lead to a fall in the amount of levy paid by the companies to the Independent Broadcasting Authority, that the launching would in effect be subsidised by the taxpayer.

"This is false logic," he said. "The commitments are all made, and the quicker we start getting a return on that money, the better for everyone concerned."

The Government had recognized during the preparatory period that there was bound to be a reduction in levy income; but the basis of the planning, Lord Thomson said, was that there would be an increase by 1984.

Companies' revenue was holding up well in the recession and this year, allowing for inflation, would be about the same as last, when net profits totalled £14m on revenue of £375m.

He is also keen to see the independent radio network built up in the next few years to make it fully viable economically.

Yesterday the IBA advertised for applications to operate the Londonderry station which will open in 18 months.

Lord Thomson has visited Northern Ireland and plans more trips there. Commenting on Granada's decision to abandon its *World in Action* programme about IRA propaganda because the IBA objected to a 20-second sequence of a hunger striker lying in state," he said: "At that point in the programme it seemed to us to be a critical taking."

"Instead of taking what the IRA had done and had already been reported, they crossed the line to engage themselves in making propaganda for the Irish National Liberation Army."

French Cabinet to use wealth tax to pay for jobs

From Ian Murray, Paris, June 10

Jobs and better pensions for the poor funded by higher taxation of the rich were agreed by the French Cabinet today.

The whole package of social measures already agreed by the Government to raise 6,800m francs (about £118m) in new taxation laws to be introduced before the new National Assembly next month are to raise 6,810m francs.

The measures were worked out in the course of what M. Pierre Bergey, Secretary General of the Elysee, described afterwards as a new style of Cabinet meeting in which ministers actually discussed the projects rather than rubber-stamped them.

It was also a wide-ranging meeting. Apart from agreement to create 54,290 more jobs in the public sector next month and to sort out the details of the new tax package, the Cabinet dealt with a list of promises made during the election campaign.

The much hated road tax for motor cycles is to go by December. Young drivers are to have their statutory grant doubled by the end of next year. Veterans are to receive a 5 per cent pension increase and there will be new jobs and credit in the education service.

In addition, the details of the traditional amnesty law which follows the election of a new President were agreed. New categories of offenders than ever before are to be included. Poachers, short-term military discipline offenders and anyone else serving sentences of less than six months would be released. Minor driving offences would be ignored or pardoned. But drug dealers and people who have defrauded the social security system would be among those excluded from any amnesty.

The Cabinet also discussed free time. A new public service office for social leisure and popular education is to be created from the beginning of next month and a study on the way a free holiday system for the underprivileged could be introduced is to be urgently completed.

After all this good news came the bad.

The price of petrol is to be increased by 15 centimes a litre (roughly 15p a gallon). This, according to the Cabinet statement, was necessary because the previous Government had failed to respect its own rules for putting up the price of petroleum products.

The new taxation measures will mainly affect the 108,000 people—less than 1 per cent of all French taxpayers—who last year paid more than 100,000

francs on their declared income. This would, for example, include a married man with two children earning 8,261 francs (£750) a week. This new, and temporary, surtax is expected to raise 4,210m francs.

To this will be added a windfall profit tax on last year's revenue by banks and oil companies which is meant to raise a further 2,600m francs. These new taxes are due to be agreed by one of the first laws to be tabled for the National Assembly's session immediately after the legislative elections.

The Government action was manifest at the end of the meeting as the various ministers sped off from the Elysee to prepare detailed statements.

M. Jacques Delors, Minister for Finance and the Economy, was first away. M. Laurent Fabius, Minister for the Budget, had already emphasised that the year's budgetary deficit was bound to be 51,600m francs rather than the forecast 24,900m even before the Socialists came to power.

M. Maurice Faure, the Minister of Justice, was working out the amnesty law. It would mean that about 5,000 people could be freed, he estimated later, and 60 per cent of all crimes committed by the Court of State Security would be released.

As far as Basque militants concerned a group decision would be taken. A group decision would be taken. A group decision would be taken.

Mme Catherine Lalumière, Junior Minister for the Public Sector, was working out how the 54,290 new jobs would be shared out. There would be 12,475 in education and 12,000 in the post office. There would be a total of 9,340 in social security jobs covering hospitals, old peoples' homes and centres for the handicapped. Cultural and social associations would receive a total of 2,250 and a further 5,000 posts would be created in local government.

Perhaps the busiest department was the Ministry of Free Time with a five-point programme covering adult education and the arts, holidays and the theatre, with three different studies and a committee to form. This ministry is seen as one of the most important by the new Government and tonight it organized its first event.

Appropriately enough the Cabinet meeting was held on the forty-fifth anniversary of the day when Leo Lagrange, the first Minister of Sport and Leisure in France, announced the law providing for a second week's paid holiday.



Mr. Zenko Suzuki, the Japanese Prime Minister, in Hamburg with Herr Helmut Schmidt, the West German Chancellor.

US team resumes talks on Namibia

From Eric Marsden, Cape Town, June 10

Mr. William Clark, the United States Deputy Secretary of State, arrived in Cape Town tonight at the head of a mission of three to discuss with South African leaders ways of bringing Namibia back to the road to independence.

He was accompanied by Dr. Chester Crocker, the newly confirmed Assistant Secretary of State, and Mr. Elliot Abrams, the Assistant Secretary of State for International Organizations.

Mr. Clark, making his first important diplomatic mission overseas, was in guarded mood at the airport. He declined to

make an opening statement and parried questions with polite headshakes, saying: "That is premature" or "That will have to wait until after our talks".

He said he had come to continue "the very fine discussions" that Mr. R. F. Botha, the South African Foreign Minister, had had in Washington last month. He was unwilling to go into elements of a Namibia settlement such as the possible supervisory role of United Nations troops (to which both the Namibian

South African Government are opposed).

Mr. Clark insisted that he and his colleagues were "not wedded to any specific concepts, but are here to discuss concepts, point by point". Asked whether they planned visit to Windhoek on Friday was a recognition of the Namibian internal parties, he said: "We are there in recognition of their importance but that is a relative term and I do not give a value judgment on it". He was anxious to hear the parties' views.

Bonn gets car export pledge from Japanese

From Patricia Clough, Bonn, June 10

Herr Helmut Schmidt, the West German Chancellor, and Mr. Zenko Suzuki, the Japanese Prime Minister, today upheld the principle of free trade in the face of growing protectionism in Europe towards Japanese imports.

At the same time Japan undertook not to increase its car exports to West Germany by more than 10 per cent a year, according to Herr Kurt Becker, a government spokesman.

In Tokyo Otto Graf Lambsdorff, the Economics Minister, described the Japanese assurance as a partial success of his mission there this week to try to persuade the Japanese voluntarily to limit their exports to Europe and relax their import barriers, or face restrictions here.

He had told them that it would become difficult for West Germany—a fervent advocate of free trade—to resist the tide of protectionism within the EEC.

Reports from Tokyo said the 10 per cent ceiling referred to this year, and the minister was merely given to understand there would be no dramatic change next year.

Last year Japan sold 250,000 cars in West Germany, 100,000 more than the year before, increasing its share of the market from 5.6 to 10.4 per cent. Imports increased another 31 per cent in the first four months of this year, and are expected to drop sharply soon, to keep within the 10 per cent limit.

The Japanese concession was announced as Mr. Suzuki began talks with the Chancellor in Hamburg on the first day of his 12-day tour of Europe.

Mr. Suzuki has said that his principal aim is to improve Japan's political relations with European countries and that trade problems are a matter for lesser officials and industry.

But he is likely to find that the matters foremost in the minds of his hosts in six capitals and in the EEC headquarters in Brussels are Japanese exports and the large imbalance of trade in Japan's favour.

The question of Japanese car imports has assumed great importance here since it appeared that the agreement to restrain car imports to the United States might result in a flood of Japanese cars on to the unrestricted West German market.

The agreement is less restrictive for the Japanese than the one they concluded recently with the United States, but political pressures in the United States for import restraints were greater than has been the case in West Germany and American car manufacturers are in a worse position than the German producers (Frank Vogl, United States Economics Correspondent, writes).

Almost one million Americans are out of work because of the United States car industry crisis. Last year Chrysler, General Motors and Ford together lost about \$4,500m (£2,250m).

The West Germans have now taken advantage of the United States deal with Tokyo to secure an agreement of their own, and the Japanese may have been willing to settle with Bonn.

Leading article, page 17

Coca-Cola moves into wine market

From Michael Leasman, New York, June 10

American tipplers are already blessed with low-calorie beers, letting them get drunk but not fat. Now, more stylish weight-conscious sippers will from next week also be catered for, when the Coca-Cola Company introduces a diet wine.

Four years ago the multinational soft drinks company acquired the Taylor Wine Company of New York and quickly expanded into California. Since then, what was still a comparatively gentlemanly trade has turned into a world of cut-throat competition, with saturation television advertising and slick merchandising techniques.

The result has been to expand the market for wine and especially to encourage its consumption as a drink on its own, not just with meals.

Its less-fertile quality is achieved by picking grapes when they are not quite ripe and so have a lower sugar content.

Production of the wine in California was made possible only last year when the state repealed a law requiring that all wine should be at least 10 per cent alcohol.

Coca-Cola also won a legal battle to use the word "light" on the label in conjunction with calorie information.

After all this effort to get a new product on the market, how does it taste? Test marketing does not begin until next week, and even then the stuff will not be sold in New York city.

Mitterrand fires his first shots in election campaign

From Charles Hargrove, Paris, June 10

Unlike his predecessor, who in 1978 and 1981, called on French voters to make "the right choice", M. Francois Mitterrand is asking them to make a parliamentary means of carrying out the policy for which he was elected.

At Montelimar last night, in his first important speech since his election to the presidency, he insisted that there were only two possible policies for France.

"The one is that whose failure Frenchmen have just condemned. They will judge it, I believe, on June 14 and 21 in the same way as they did on May 10. The other is that which I propose and which I have begun to implement."

He attacked the argument of the Gaullists and Giscardians that the voters will not want to put all their eggs in the same basket on Sunday, and must return to Parliament a liberal majority to act as a break on the collectivization of French society.

"In these times of crisis and failure, France must speak with one voice," he said.

"She must be able to make her message of freedom and hope, of strength and tranquility heard universally—for the sake of her own peace, and the peace of the world. I hope the country will give me the means to do so."

The choice of Montelimar in the Rhone valley was not accidental. This is a stronghold with a long Socialist tradition, deeply rooted in the cultivation of the vine.

M. Maurice Pic, its mayor, is an old companion of M. Mitterrand in the UDSR, that small key party of the fifties and sixties strategically placed at the left of centre, which boasted more ministers to its total membership than any other because it was an indispensable

element of all the kaleidoscopic coalitions of the Fourth Republic.

M. Henri Michel, one of the three Socialist deputies, is a personal friend of long standing, with whom the President has often stayed at Suz-la-Rousse.

M. Mitterrand, in an informal talk with reporters at Solvay, in Burgundy, had said that he would not refrain from intervening in the parliamentary campaign. "But I shall certainly not do so outside the legal limits"—an allusion to the habit of M. Giscard d'Estaing, and his two predecessors of addressing a final appeal to the voters just before polling day and after the official closing of the campaign.

The President also implicitly warned both the left of his own party and his opponents on the right that he felt bound only by his own campaign promises, and not by Socialist programmes or "projects" which M. Jacques Chirac and the leaders of the outgoing majority are branding like a scarecrow before the eyes of the voters.

The "quiet man" now installed in the Elysee also took the opportunity to demonstrate his firmness and sense of authority towards the United States, "which must understand there is no true solidarity which is not based on a just economic cooperation. How can they expect it of their allies when their monetary policy placed upon them an excessive burden?"

Towards Russia, to which he warned that "the Poles must settle their own problems by themselves. I solemnly repeat: the principle of non-intervention in the affairs of a country is a fundamental principle. Any breach of this rule would have serious consequences."

Jobless on EEC minds

From Michael Hornsby, Brussels, June 10

Economics and labour or social affairs ministers of the Ten were gathering in Luxembourg today, in a forlorn attempt to convince their various electorates that they are sincerely trying to do something about unemployment.

The idea for the conference—referred to here as the Jumbo Council because of the number of its participants—first emanated from the Dutch, largely for electoral reasons, and was somewhat casually endorsed at last November's EEC summit meeting.

Since then this commitment has come to be regretted. At least part of the reason why it is being held now is the desire of the British to get it out of the way before they take

over the EEC presidency from the Dutch on July 1.

It is certain that the outpouring of rhetoric and fine-sounding speeches will be in inverse proportion to the concrete results of the conference, which seems likely merely to advertise the inability or unwillingness of most governments to take the action necessary to create more jobs.

Not that anyone disputes the seriousness of the problem. According to the European Commission, there were six million unemployed in the EEC in 1978. This figure now stands at more than 8.5 million, is expected to reach 10 million by the end of the year and will probably rise to 12 million by 1985.

This grim prospect is the product both of recession and demographic trends

Some motoring organisations have eyes that tend to wander. Ours have always been firmly fixed on the road. From the very beginning, the RAC has been the friend, the spokesman, the champion of the motorist.

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The RAC continually lobbies governments, MP's, local authorities and other organisations.

The RAC makes the strongest possible representations in controversial legislative areas like 'random checks' and the motorist offences 'toting up' system.

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Dear comrades . . . Moscow warns Polish party

This is the text of the letter from the Soviet Central Committee to the Polish Central Committee which was sent last Friday and was debated by the Polish Central Committee on Tuesday. The translation in parts is a little free.

Dear Comrades,

The Central Committee of the Soviet Union addresses itself to you in this letter feeling profound anxiety for the fate of socialism in Poland and for the freedom and independence of the country.

Our démarche is dictated by the interest which we have as party members in the work of the Polish United Workers' Party and for the sister nation of socialist Poland as a member of the Warsaw Pact and the Council for Mutual Economic Assistance (Comecon).

Polish and Soviet communists have fought shoulder to shoulder in the battle against fascism and were together throughout all the years after the war. Our party and the people of the Soviet Union have helped their Polish comrades in the building of a new life. Therefore we cannot fail to be worried about the threat which now puts the revolutionary gains of the Polish nation in mortal danger.

We say openly that certain tendencies in the development of the People's Republic of Poland, particularly in the field of ideology and in the economic policies of the previous leadership, have been arousing our anxiety for many years. In full accordance with the spirit of relations which exist between the Polish and Soviet parties we spoke of this to Polish leaders during meetings at the highest level and during other encounters.

Unfortunately these friendly warnings, just like critical declarations from inside the Polish party, were not taken into consideration and were even ignored. As a consequence a profound crisis broke in the country, deriving from the violation of principles which should regulate the construction of socialism, were intended to regain popular confidence, above all that of the working class in the party, and reinforce socialist democracy.

These efforts found our full understanding. From the very first days of the crisis we thought it important that the party should decisively oppose all attempts to turn the crisis into a crisis of socialism to take advantage of difficulties to promote their long term aims. But this was not done.

Continuing concessions to anti-socialist forces and to their demands led the party to withdraw in the face of pressure from counter-revolution which relies on the support of foreign centres of imperialism and subversion.

At present the situation is not dangerous but it is critical. It is not possible to assess the situation any differently. Enemies of socialist Poland are not hiding their intention. They are conducting a struggle



for power and are already winning. They are taking control of one position after another.

Counter-revolution is using the extremist wing of Solidarity as a spearhead of attack, making use of workers who joined this professional union, in order to carry out this criminal plot against people's power and authority.

A wave of anti-communism and anti-Sovietism is developing. Imperialist forces are making more and more audacious attempts to interfere in Poland's internal affairs.

Greedy hands of capitalism

The serious danger to socialist Poland also puts the very existence of the Polish state in danger. If the worst were to happen and the enemies of socialism were to assume power, if Poland were no more to benefit from the defence of socialism, the greedy hands of imperialism would immediately stretch out. Who would then be able to guarantee the independence, sovereignty and frontiers of the Polish state? Nobody.

You attended the meeting of the Eastern parties which took place in Moscow on December 1, 1980. On March 4, 1981, there were talks between the Soviet leadership and a delegation from the Polish party attending the twenty-sixth congress. On April 23 this year, a Soviet delegation met the entire Polish leadership.

During these meetings and in other contacts we underlined our anxiety about the activity of counter-revolutionary forces in Poland. We have spoken of the need to surmount the con-

fusion within the ranks of the Polish party, of the need for a decisive defence of people's power against enemy attacks.

In particular, attention was drawn to the fact that the enemy had gained domination over the mass media which are being used to destroy socialism and disintegrate the party. We drew attention to the fact that the battle for the party cannot be won as long as press, radio and television work not for the party but for the enemy.

We also put forward forcefully the need to reinforce in Poland the forces of public order and the Army and to strengthen their defensive capability against the ambitions of counter-revolutionary forces.

To tolerate attempts to slander and disintegrate the security organs the militia and consequently the Army too means disarming the socialist state and abandoning it to the mercy of class enemies.

We wish to underline that in all these questions Comrades Kania and Jaruzelski and other Polish comrades expressed agreement with our point of view, but in fact, everything remained unchanged and there was no correction whatever to the policy of concession and compromise. One position after another is being surrendered.

In spite of documents from the last plenum (in May) which stated that there was a threat of counter-revolution, not a single measure has up to now been taken to confront it and to expose its organizers.

Recently the situation inside the party has also become the subject of our particular preoccupation. Only a month is left before the Polish party

congress, yet forces hostile to socialism are increasingly setting the tone of the election campaign.

Often candidates who openly express opportunistic points of view have entered the leadership of local party organizations and are carrying on a number of delegates to conferences and to the congress itself. This cannot but provoke anxiety.

Activists with irreproachable reputations and morality are being pushed out by the multiple manipulations of enemies of the party, revisionists and opportunists.

The fact that among the delegates to the approaching congress there is an extremely small number of communists from working class circles is profoundly worrying.

Preparations for the congress are complicated by the so-called movement of horizontal structures which is an instrument for dismantling the party and which opportunists are using to promote people indispensable to them in turning the proceedings along the road they want.

Enormous aid from Russia

It cannot be excluded that during the congress itself an attempt could be made to strike a decisive blow against Marxist-Leninist forces in the party and in fact to liquidate it.

We want to say that particularly in the past few months the forces of counter-revolution are actively disseminating anti-Sovietism of all kinds, designed to obscure the achievements of our two parties and to resurrect once again nationalism and anti-

Soviet sentiments in different strata of Polish society.

These slanderous and liars do not stop at anything. They maintain that the Soviet Union is plundering Poland, and this is said without bearing in mind the fact that the Soviet Union was and is providing enormous supplementary material aid to Poland in this difficult period.

It is said about a country which supplies principal branches of Polish industry with oil, gas, cotton and minerals at prices which are often one and a half to two times lower than world prices.

Respected comrades, in writing to you we not only have at heart our profound anxiety for the situation in sister Poland and for the conditions and prospects for Soviet-Polish cooperation but also the fact that other fraternal parties are anxious that anti-socialist and enemy forces are menacing the interests of our entire community, its cohesion and integrity and the security of its frontiers.

Yes, our common security is imperilled. Reactionary supporters and stimulates counter-revolution in Poland. It does not hide its hopes that in this way it can swing the balance of forces in Europe in its favour. Imperialism is actively using the crisis to slander the socialist system, the principles and practice of socialism. It uses the crisis for new attacks against the international communist movement.

Historic responsibility therefore rests on the Polish party not only for the destiny of its own country, for its independence and progress, but also for the interests of the socialist community.

We believe that a possibility of avoiding a national catastrophe still exists. Inside the Polish party there are many honest and firm communists ready to fight for the ideals of Marxism-Leninism and for an independent Poland. There are also numerous persons in the working class who are devoted to the cause of socialism and have not been lured by the lies and machinations of enemies and who will follow the party and reflect its views.

It is now necessary to mobilize all healthy forces of society to confront the class enemy and fight the counter-revolution. This calls first of all for revolutionary will in the party and among its militants and leadership. Yes, its leadership!

Time is not waiting. The party must find in itself the forces to reverse the course of events and to put things in order with good will before the congress.

Entire Soviet people with you

We would like to believe that the Central Committee of the Polish sister party will rise to its historic responsibilities. We wish to assure you, comrades, that in these difficult days, as always in the past, the Central Committee of the Soviet party and all Soviet comrades and the entire Soviet people are with you in your fight.

Our point of view was expressed with precision in the declaration of Comrade Brezhnev to the twenty-sixth congress: "We will not abandon fraternal socialist Poland in its hour of need. We will stand by it."

Central Committee of the Soviet Communist Party, June 5, 1981.

Arrigo Levi: A Personal View

West's first task is its economy

Does history run in grooves? The feeling that we have seen it all before has never been stronger than it is today, with the Soviet Union leaning every day more openly towards another invasion—it would be the third one—of a "brotherly" country, in order to prevent it—the holding of a communist congress.

Right now, having pointed out from the end of April that the period of real danger had come for the Polish rebellion, I would rather be tempted to point out that there are many good reasons why the Russians should not invade: more than 30 million good reasons, as many as there are Poles in Poland, plus one in the Vatican. Does Mr. Leonid Brezhnev want to risk, in his old age, a bloodbath in the heart of Europe? Does he really believe that by so doing he would strengthen Soviet power? Such doubts may still stop him.

Whatever happens in the next few weeks, events in Poland prove once again that the democratic West must prepare itself for a very long trial of strength with the Soviet Empire. General Sir John Hackett may be right in saying, as I heard him say at a recent conference, that "after all, the disintegration of the Soviet Empire from within is only a matter of time." I happen to agree with this view. But nobody knows whether we shall have to calculate time in years or generations.

Iceberg not thawing

Even accepting that Soviet power became a global threat only after the Second World War, and that it is now aimed at permitting us to outlast the last empire of history, has already gone on for one full generation. It could last for another.

It is a long time since anyone in the West spoke of doing something to roll back Soviet power. During the last decade we acted on the belief that the warm breeze of détente would hasten the thawing and breaking up of the Soviet iceberg faster than any icy winds from the Cold War.

In fact, either in the Cold War or in détente, the crisis-cycle of the Soviet Empire has remained the same: every 12 years or so one satellite country runs for freedom and is brutally brought back into the communist fold by the Red Army, or as in the case of Poland so far, by the threat to use it. This proves that the roots of the disease are deep inside the Soviet system. What we do is almost irrelevant.

Nor can we intervene in a crisis once it started, because we cannot risk an atomic war. We must wait for the cycle to run its full course, for the wheel to return, perhaps 12 years from now, to its present position. On one of these cycles, the disintegration of the Soviet Empire may finally take place, and when it happens the world shall tremble. In fact that the shock waves of such an event may not be contained within the frontiers of the empire itself: unleashing of course Vico's Law of Cycles is proved wrong and history takes another path.

In the meantime, we must prepare ourselves for a cruel, prolonged test of our resistance and willpower. What can we do to make sure that we can outlast the last empire?

Strong political instincts

The prevailing view of the West today is that we must, first of all, strengthen our defence efforts, in the NATO area and outside it. This is a certain vital and urgent. But I found very convincing an alternative view, which I heard forcefully argued by Mr. David Watt at another recent meeting, according to which "the most important thing for the alliance is to get our economic structure right, to get more growth."

Mr Watt's main point was that the defence effort itself cannot be sustained unless the American and European economies become stronger. One could add that more growth is equally indispensable in order to bring "employment levels and in order to strengthen our societies politically, so that they remain the superior civilization during the prolonged trial of strength."

President Reagan, with his strong political instincts, knows that his plans for the economic renaissance of America are to him as important as his campaign for America's rearmament. But his present management of economic affairs, while offering hope at home, is helping to plunge the rest of the free world into very serious trouble.

This is very wrong. The contradictions between the economic policies of the main Western powers must be solved before the July summit of the Seven, and before we deal this time mostly with economic affairs. Right now, "getting our economy right" may be the most important political task of the alliance, in answer to the unending turbulence of the world outside.

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Reagan unlikely to stop arms for Israel

From David Cross, Washington, June 10

President Reagan met his defence and foreign policy advisers at the White House again today to discuss possible retaliatory action against Israel for using American-built aircraft in its raid on the Iraqi nuclear power plant.

The Administration has promised to decide within the next day or two whether to suspend military sales to Israel. Spokesmen for the State Department and White House, who have condemned last Sunday's raid, have said on several occasions that the Israelis may well have violated American restrictions on the use of military equipment.

However, although it is fairly clear that Israel broke American law by using F15 and F16 aircraft offensively rather than for defensive purposes, Administration officials have indicated that any punitive action will be symbolic at most. Washington could, for example, decide to delay temporarily the delivery to the Israelis of four new F16 fighter bombers due to be handed over on Friday.

Mr Reagan and his advisers were also considering their attitude to the forthcoming debate in the United Nations Security Council on last Sunday's raid. They will have to take into account how far they should go in joining other Security Council members who are bound to condemn the Israeli attack.

After a late night meeting of the President and his advisers at the White House yesterday, a spokesman for Mr Reagan said no decision had yet been taken on how the Administration would react to the raid. "Any decisions will be made in the best interests of the United States," he said, adding that he did not expect today's gathering to come to any final conclusions.

On Capitol Hill, members of the Senate and the House of Representatives have made it clear that they, too, do not expect the close relationship between Washington and Tel Aviv to be impaired in spite of the anger in Moscow and the whole of the Arab world.

In a television interview today



No comment from Brigadier General Abdul Jawad Amin, Iraq's director of technology, cornered at the Paris Air Show

Air strike puts bite into election campaigning

From Our Own Correspondent, Jerusalem, June 10

After a brief delay for mutual admiration of Israel's military prowess, last Sunday's long-range air strike against Iraq's nuclear reactor has now emerged as a bitterly contested campaign issue between the ruling right-wing Government and the opposition Labour Party.

With less than three weeks to go until polling day, Mr Shimon Peres, the Opposition leader, accused Mr Menachem Begin, Prime Minister, of deliberately launching the attack as a vote-catching measure.

He claimed that a military operation was not necessary at this stage, adding that the government should have allowed President Mitterrand to fulfil his wish to visit the campaign, pledge not to supply Iraq with enriched uranium.

Mr Abba Eban, another prominent Labour Party figure and former Foreign Minister, accused Mr Begin of irresponsibility for inviting President Sadat of Egypt to a summit meeting in the Sinai on the eve of the raid.

This has rendered the Egyptians susceptible to accusations of collusion, he said, and had accounted for their nervous reaction.

The delay in public Labour Party criticism of the raid is understood to have arisen from fears inside the party that such a move would appear unpatriotic. The chance in tactics comes alongside indications that the spectacular raid has further

Every Israeli bomb scored direct hit on Iraqi reactor

From Christopher Walker, Jerusalem, June 10

Some 72 hours after the event a clearer picture is beginning to emerge about the probable tactics used by the Israeli Air Force to mount last Sunday's long-distance raid which destroyed Iraq's main nuclear reactor at a site 15 miles outside Baghdad.

Because of the strict military censorship enforced by Israel on operational details, much of the information about the way in which the attack was mounted has originated from intelligence and other sources in America.

The Washington sources claim that about 15 American-built F15 and F16 jets were involved in the raid, which was the longest-range air operation ever carried out by Israeli fighter aircraft.

The jets were scrambled from Etzion, the air base situated in that part of the Sinai due to be handed back to Egypt next April. In order to fulfil the mission, the jets were forced to detect and possible missile attack, the jets are believed to have flown low over the barren empty quarter of Saudi Arabia for much of their journey.

The American sources believe that refuelling took place soon after take-off, with the modern F15s being used to bomb the Iraqi installation while the heavier, more powerful F16s flew air cover to guard against Iraqi interceptors.

In order to deflect suspicion from the Saudi Arabians, the Israeli pilots are understood to have identified themselves as members of the Jordanian Air Force and spoken in Arabic over their intercoms. It is not known whether they used special Jordanian air codes.

Outlining the difficulties posed by the operation, Major-General David Ivri, the chief of

the Air Force, said: "We carried out very many exercises and training procedures over the course of many months. . . . We had to provide answers to a number of basic problems including range, or the radius of the action, fuel, problems of communication with the target or intelligence control and monitoring in far-off areas."

Much of the initial work in identifying the layout of the reactor site, the work habits of the hundred or so foreign experts and the likelihood of Iraqi retaliation was done by agents of the Mossad, Israel's effective and strictly secret intelligence service.

It is also believed to have been information from Mossad sources which convinced Mr Menachem Begin, the Israeli Prime Minister, and the country's leading military planners that the Osirak reactor was within a maximum of three months from becoming operational.

The actual bombing was carried out with remarkable accuracy, using ordinary 2,000lb bombs and repaying hours of practice on scale models of the reactor. The Israelis have made it clear that their intention was to destroy the main 70 megawatt reactor, and not the much smaller experimental reactor also located on the site.

A 60-minute colour video tape film of the raid has been studied by senior Israeli politicians, and discussions are still under way to determine whether any segment of it can be released for public viewing.

The supreme confidence expressed by Israel from the outset about the success of the mission was partly based on a blow-up of one of the frames which clearly showed the core

of the Iraqi reactor crumbling and crashing into the cooling pool.

Mr Harry Cato, a Pentagon spokesman, said that American satellite reports had shown extensive damage to the Iraqi installation, with every bomb scoring a direct hit.

Another American source explained: "There was not one crater around the place. Every bomb went where it was supposed to."

It is now known that the Israeli fighters encountered only sporadic anti-aircraft fire during the attack. Once it was completed, they took roughly the same route back over the desert wastes of Saudi Arabia, covering a distance of some 1,120 miles all of it over hostile territory.

One potential threat to the tight secrecy surrounding the operation was the presence of an Israeli aerial surveillance aircraft flying regular missions from Saudi Arabia. But it seems that this was avoided because the aircraft patrol only along the eastern part of Saudi territory, some 1,000 miles from the route taken by the Israeli raiders.

The success of Sunday's mission has inevitably led to speculation that some type of similarly spectacular action is being planned against the new Syrian missile sites in Lebanon. Asked yesterday to compare the problems that would be encountered in the two operations, General Ivri replied that to do so would be as difficult as "comparing a cucumber and a tomato."

The Israeli Air Force commander added: "The main thing is that this attack we have already completed successfully, whereas the other one is still ahead of us."

Quarrels threaten Arab unity

From Robert Fisk

Beirut, June 10

Less than 24 hours before the Arab League is to debate a concerted response to the Israeli attack on Iraq's nuclear reactor, Arab states were today showing signs of dissension.

Libya sneered at Saudi Arabia's inability to prevent the Israeli jets flying over its territory, while Syria announced that the Israeli aircraft would have been shot down by missiles if they had flown over Syria.

This display of petulance augurs badly for any hopes that the Arabs can for once present the Libyans and in the face of an Israeli attack.

Demands for an economic boycott of the United States are likely to become bogged down in the quarrelling of Arab states who suspect that their neighbours are successful traitors or client kingdoms of the United States.

The Libyan radio and state-controlled newspapers have been criticizing Saudi Arabia for failing to realize that the Israelis were flying over their country. The Libyans wanted to know why the Airborne Warning and Command Systems (AWACS) aircraft delivered by the United States were unable to detect the Israeli intruder aircraft.

For several months now Colonel Gaddafi, the Libyan leader, has been claiming that the mere existence of the AWACS aircraft is a blasphemy against the Islamic shrines of Saudi Arabia.

In Damascus, the Government newspaper *Al Baath* said an Israeli attack could not have been successfully undertaken against Syria. "Such an attack would not be a picnic," an editorial said, suggesting that "that was what the Israelis experienced over Iraq."

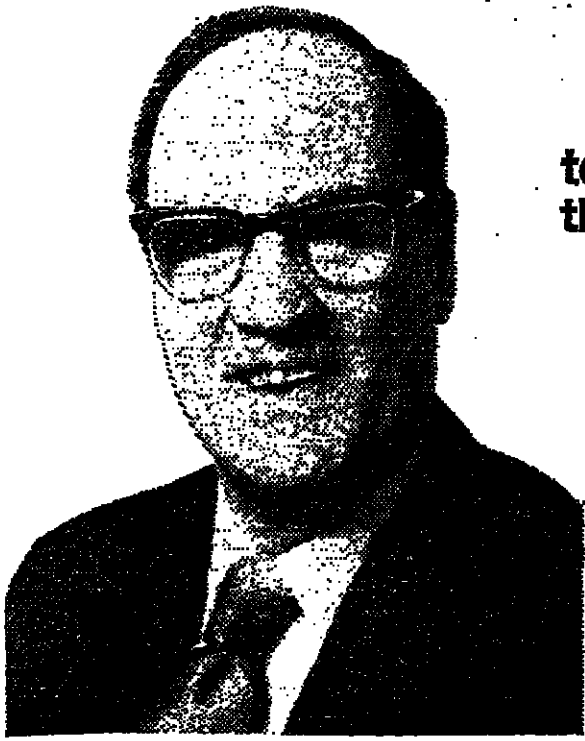
If enemy planes had flown Syria in the way they did Baghdad, they would have been struck down by missiles."

Iraq today recounted the extent of international condemnation against Israel. The Iraqi newspaper also gave considerable prominence to the statement by Mr. Sivard

of the International Atomic Energy Agency, quoting him as saying that it had inspected the Iraqi reactor and had found that Iraq had "made no nuclear activity which contradicts the (nuclear non-proliferation) treaty".

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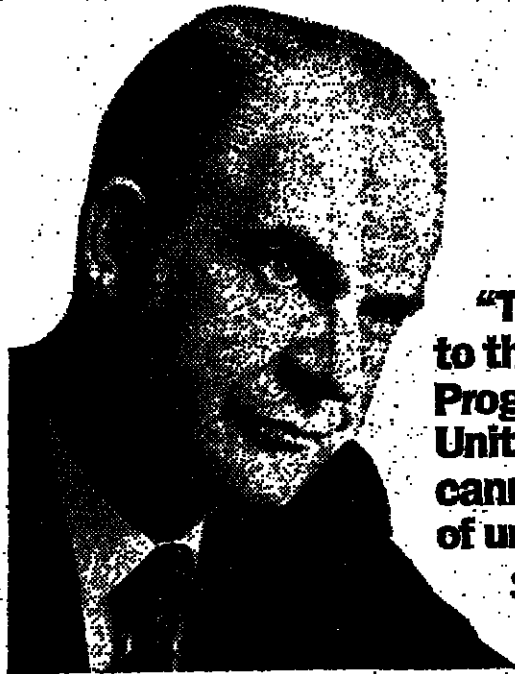
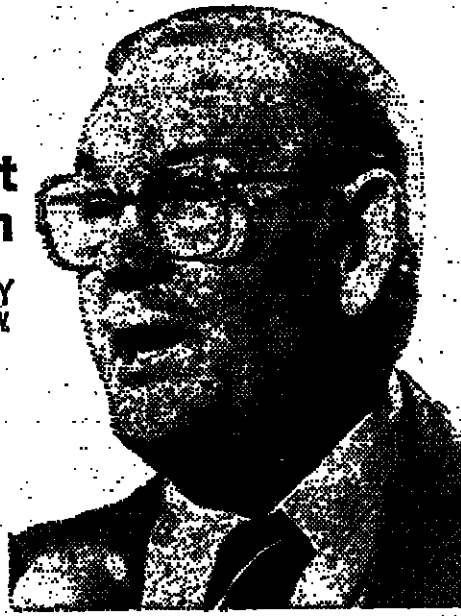


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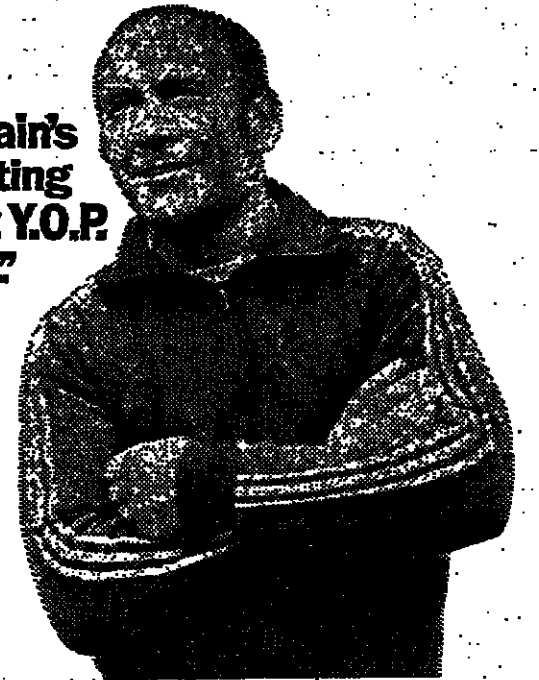
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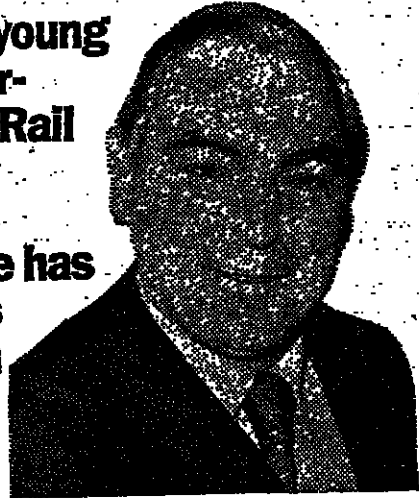
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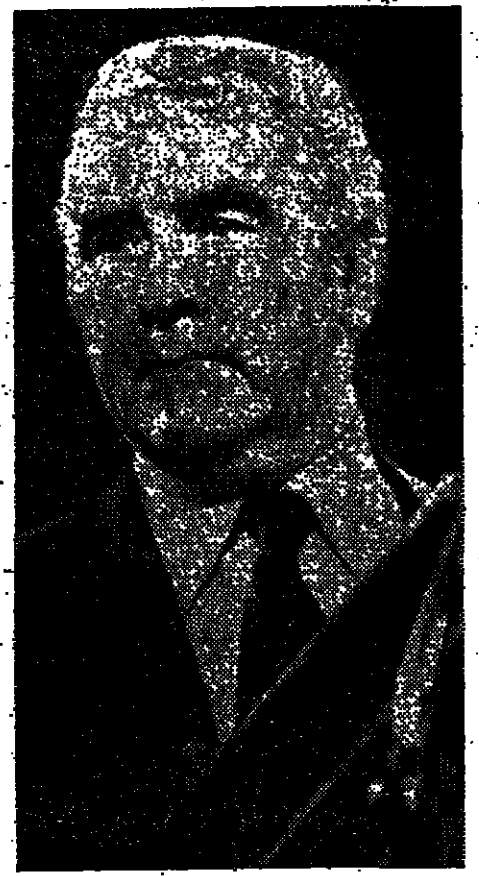
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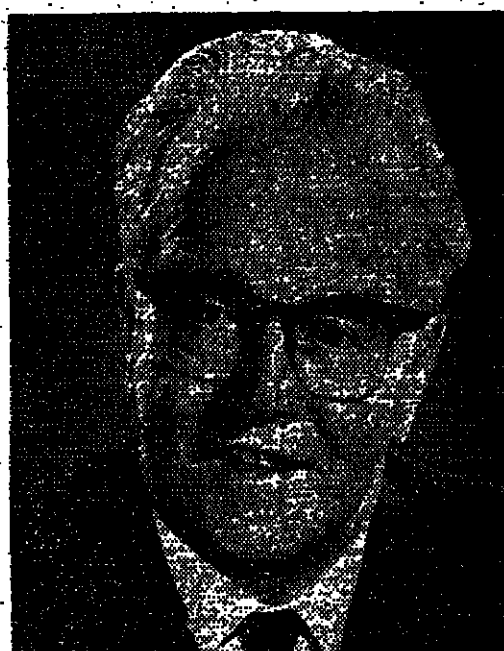


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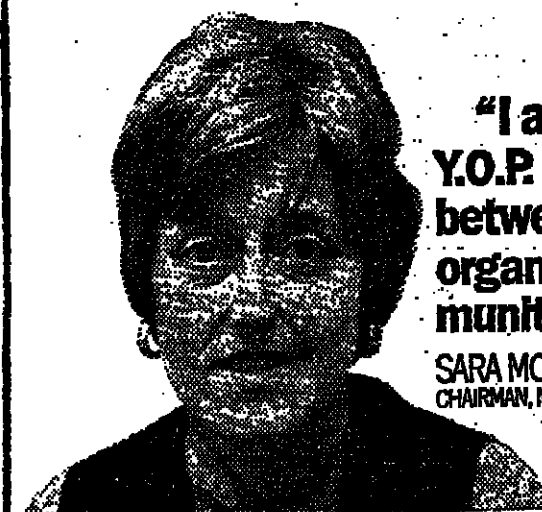
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Crisis deepens as Forlani fails to form government

By Peter Nichols, Rome, June 10

A former newspaper editor has been asked to try and form a government in Italy because of the failure of Signor Arnaldo Forlani to do so.

If Senator Giovanni Spadolini, the Republican Party leader, succeeds, he will be the first politician in three and a half decades to break the Christian Democratic monopoly on the Premiership.

Senator Spadolini, an historian who edited the Milan newspaper *Corriere della Sera* goes to the palace tomorrow.

His summons by President Pertini came at the end of a day in which the Italian crisis grew progressively more serious.

Not only was Signor Forlani's own position weakened to the point that he could do nothing but withdraw from the scene, there was a worsening in developments surrounding the Masonic crisis which brought down the Forlani Government.

In Turin yesterday, Signor Walter Mandelli, deputy chairman of the Confederation of Industry, said: "No country in the state Italy is in as ever

solved its problems without a dictatorship. I still want to believe that we shall manage to avoid it."

The Masonic scandal hardened, today after publication of an interview given to the Rome newspaper *La Repubblica* by Signor Giuliano Turone, and Signor Gherardo Colombo, the two Milan investigating magistrates who discovered the P2 lists.

These were found in the Arizona villa of Signor Licio Gelli, organiser of the P2 group, who is now in hiding to avoid arrest on charges of espionage.

He was a Freemason and his P2 organisation still had ties with official Freemasonry even though it was not a lodge in the usual sense of the term.

Signor Gelli has since been suspended by the Masonic leadership. The lists show that he had gathered around him 253 people including politicians and heads of the armed forces and secret services.

The defence of some of the men allegedly associated with him is that the lists were con-

cocted by Signor Gelli or others with the specific aim of allowing them to fall into the hands of the investigators.

This defence has largely been swept away by what the two investigating magistrates say today.

They make clear that they carried out the search of Signor Gelli's villa without informing the local police chief or any other authorities. By acting in this way they were sure that Signor Gelli's informers in high places would have been unable to tell him in advance that his home was about to be searched.

They also say that the documents found in the villa certainly do not amount to the whole Gelli archive which they believe is kept abroad in Switzerland or Latin America.

The documents so far seized referred simply to current business—and it might be said that the lists given relatively small importance by the investigating judges have so far brought down one Government and are effectively preventing the formation of a new one.

Portraits of Franco still adorn Spanish ships

From Richard Wigg, Madrid, June 10

Señor Leopoldo Calvo Sotelo, the Spanish Prime Minister, has been asked to try and form a government in Spain because of the failure of Signor Arnaldo Forlani to do so.

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solved its problems without a dictatorship. I still want to believe that we shall manage to avoid it."

The Masonic scandal hardened, today after publication of an interview given to the Rome newspaper *La Repubblica* by Signor Giuliano Turone, and Signor Gherardo Colombo, the two Milan investigating magistrates who discovered the P2 lists.

These were found in the Arizona villa of Signor Licio Gelli, organiser of the P2 group, who is now in hiding to avoid arrest on charges of espionage.

He was a Freemason and his P2 organisation still had ties with official Freemasonry even though it was not a lodge in the usual sense of the term.

Signor Gelli has since been suspended by the Masonic leadership. The lists show that he had gathered around him 253 people including politicians and heads of the armed forces and secret services.

The defence of some of the men allegedly associated with him is that the lists were con-

Kabul gun battle in palace

From Trevor Fishlock, Delhi, June 10

Feuding between rival factions in Afghanistan's ruling party has erupted into a gun battle in the People's Palace, the presidential headquarters in Kabul, according to reports reaching Delhi today.

A diplomatic source said that nine days ago there was shooting between members of the Khalq faction and President Babrak Karmal's Parcham faction. One of the presidential bodyguards was killed, according to one report.

It is not known whether Mr Karmal was in the palace at the time. There are rumours in Kabul that he has visited Moscow recently and has been told to redouble his efforts to bring unity to the party.

Unity, however, will be difficult to achieve. The differences between the factions are deep and bitter and there have been numerous gun battles and murders, mostly in Kabul.

The diplomatic source said that Mr Karmal's parents were flown to the Soviet Union recently. There were also reports that the family of his brother, Baryalai, and of Mr Muhammad Rafi, the Defence Minister, had left for the Soviet Union. There is speculation here that Mr Karmal and others in the hierarchy fear that their families are in danger as the feuding intensifies.



Cindy Spicer, aged nine, of St Paul, Minnesota, the youngest heart transplant recipient in the world, skips happily out of the University of Minnesota Hospital, followed by her father. She received her new heart five weeks ago. Doctors described her condition as superb.

Foot takes initiative on disarmament

From Paul Routledge, Brighton

Mr Michael Foot, the Opposition leader, has taken the initiative in moving towards East-West disarmament talks by writing directly to President Brezhnev.

His intervention, designed to accelerate progress towards a full-scale summit on arms control and reduction, was disclosed in a speech in Brighton yesterday to the policy conference of the General and Municipal Workers' Union.

Labour's leader also reaffirmed his commitment to Britain going alone in giving up nuclear weapons if the two super powers cannot reach agreement on scaling down the arms race.

"We should mobilise all our strength on this great issue," Mr Foot insisted. "And believe me the way in which we can proceed forward will be a combination of trying to secure multilateral, international negotiations but in certain circumstances we should be prepared to take unilateral action to show we are earnest."

"What we are fighting against is the wicked, evil farism of those who say that the nuclear arms race must be allowed to go on. The British Government, if it had any fitness to govern in this matter, would have replied long since to Mr Brezhnev."

"But because they have not, we in the Labour Party have replied and they will be receiving our letter in the next few days."

Mr Foot afterwards declined to be drawn on the contents of his letter beyond saying that it covered the areas raised by Mr Brezhnev in his approach to Western leaders for talks on cutbacks in military spending.

However, he added: "We want to get negotiations moving. When the Government talks

about the end of the year we don't think that is fast enough. The Government doesn't show enough urgency."

The Labour leader further revealed that Mr Brezhnev had written to him and to the leaders of other West European socialist parties seeking their support in getting disarmament negotiations off the ground, and that these leaders from Belgium, Norway, Denmark and Holland met for joint discussions three weeks ago.

Mr Foot's approach to the Russians, was the outcome of these discussions. "The only defence policy for Britain and the world is a disarmament policy, starting with nuclear disarmament and I believe you have to start right away."

Mr Foot said the United States has begun talks with the Soviet Union on limiting strategic arms and medium-range nuclear weapons in Europe, and describes talk in Washington of such a development as "only words". (Michael Binyon writes.)

"I can say quite definitely that in all the time since the present American Administration came to power, to this day, no real steps have been taken on either of the questions by the United States," the Soviet leader said at a Kremlin banquet last night.

He said the United States used all sorts of pretexts to delay the opening of discussions. But the Soviet Union was ready for them at any time.

In his speech, in honour of President Chadi Benjedid of Algeria, who is on a visit, Mr Brezhnev also proposed measures to turn the Mediterranean into a zone of peace and stability.

Reagan stand on tax cuts unsettles Democrats

From Patrick Brogan, Washington, June 10

President Reagan has sent his tax cut proposals to Congress, and the Democrats are in confusion over what to do about them.

The President wants to reduce the federal tax by 25 per cent over the next three years, and he may well have the votes in the House of Representatives to pass the Bill. Republicans control the Senate and Mr Reagan will have no trouble there.

The Democrats have a majority of 52 in the House, and the President is well on the way to obtaining the support of the 27 he needs to carry the Bill. It has been submitted by Mr Barber Conable, senior Republican on the ways and means committee, and by Mr Kent Hance, a Democrat from Texas.

The President can thus claim that his is a bipartisan measure. When the budget resolution was presented on May 7, it passed 353 to 476, with over 60 Democrats defecting to the President's side. The margin will be closer this time, but Mr Reagan has high hopes of success.

He has already won a significant tactical victory, by allowing the Democrats to propose a compromise, and then rejecting it. Mr Reagan wants taxes cut by 5 per cent from October 1, then by 10 per cent on July 1, 1982, and a further 10 per cent on July 1, 1983.

The Democrats, who started off opposing tax cuts, and then offering a one-year tax cut, proposed last week that taxes should be cut by 5 per cent this year and 10 per cent next as Mr Reagan wants, but that the third year should be left to work out on its merits.

They hoped that the President would accept the proposal and that they could therefore go before the electorate next year as responsible legislators, ready to relieve their voters' tax burdens but not to allow the budget deficit to increase.

Mr Reagan would have none of it, and the Democrats, who have already given up most of the ground, are left with a most precarious hold on the remainder.

Turk plea to Armenians

Ankara, June 10. — Turkey appealed today to Armenian communities throughout the world to protest against continuing attacks on Turkish diplomats abroad following last night's murder of a Turk in Geneva.

A Foreign Ministry statement said: "We expect Armenian communities all over the world

not to remain silent about these continuing murders, whose perpetrators claim they are acting on the Armenian behalf."

Mehmet Yerguz, a 37-year-old Turkish employee at the consulate in Geneva, was shot dead by a gunman in the street as he walked home. Police said the assailant, caught by passers-by, declared he was an Armenian.

Taiwan arms opposed

Peking, June 10. — China today voiced strong opposition to continued United States arms sales to Taiwan, in a statement issued only four days before the arrival in Peking of Mr Alexander Haig, the Secretary of State.

According to the New China news agency, the Chinese Foreign Ministry said Peking would rather receive no American arms than accept continued United States interference.

IN BRIEF

Greece thwarts putsch plot
Athens, June 10. — Mr Evangelos Averoff, the Greek Defence Minister, disclosed tonight that he had thwarted a putsch by retired Army officers on June 1, simply by ordering a military exercise in the Athens region earlier than scheduled.

He told Parliament that intelligence from three different, reliable sources indicated that a group of misguided retired officers had intended to stage an "action" at 2 a.m. Mr Averoff said their objectives were unclear. He would not ask for prosecution of those responsible. "What we must do," he said, "is keep an eye on them."

Shroud imprints

Chicago, June 10. — Computer analysis shows that imprints of coins on the Shroud of Turin were made by coins issued by Pontius Pilate about the time of Christ's crucifixion, the Rev Francis Filas, Professor of Theology at Loyola, reports.

Berlin arrests

Berlin, June 10. — Police detained 35 people during overnight street clashes with squatters here, a spokesman said today. Fighting broke out after police had searched houses occupied by squatters in the Kreuzberg district.

Sisters accused

Athens, June 10. — Two sisters, Liisa Tsangarakis, aged 23, and Katina, who is 20, wanted by police in connexion with the bombing of two Athens department stores last week, were charged today under Greece's anti-terrorism law.

Train victims found

Badia Ghat, India, June 10. — The bodies of 143 victims of last Saturday's train disaster have been recovered from the Bagmati river. Many others are still missing and officials estimate the final toll will be at least 800.

Lawmaker quits

Peking, June 10. — Mr Peng Zhen, one of China's foremost lawmakers and a high-ranking member of the Chinese Communist Party, has resigned as director of the legislative commission of the National People's Congress, Peking Radio said.

Strike at EEC

Brussels, June 10. — Most of the 8,500 staff of the European Commission went on strike today and are threatening to continue tomorrow because of a dispute with the EEC's Council of Ministers over pay.

Lost symphony

New York, June 10. — A long lost symphony written by Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart in 1765 when he was nine will be given its United States premiere at the Kennedy Centre in Washington on July 8.

Turks hang killer

Ankara, June 10. — Turkish authorities have hanged a convicted left-wing murderer. It was the sixth execution since last September's military coup, state radio reported.

Koch to stand again for mayor

From Michael Lippman, New York, June 10

Mr Edward Koch, whose first four-year term as Mayor of New York ends this year, officially declared himself a candidate for a second term today.

He seems certain to gain the nomination of both the Democratic and Republican parties in September's primaries, and would be the first candidate ever to seek re-election in the election with the support of both.

He was elected in 1977 as a Democrat but has since then lost the support of the left wing of the Democratic Party by his increasing fiscal conservatism and by his apparent lack of enthusiasm for social progress. For the same reasons, he has won increased support from Republicans and the right.

Today's announcement follows a speech of four hours publicity for the mayor. This week his picture appeared on the cover of *Time* magazine. Today the *New York Post* endorsed his reelection in a glowing editorial, headlined "Yes, he's doing great."

A second term, the editorial said, was richly deserved.

It continued: "Under the leadership of this laughing, dedicated, exuberant mayor, New York has come out of the poorhouse and back to its rightful place as the world's most exciting city."

At the press conference announcing his bid for a second term, Mr Koch said he had brought discipline, stability and straight talk to the city's government, and emphasized that he had taken the budget back into balance.

CAMP DAVID SUMMIT SUCCESS

From Our Own Correspondent, Washington, June 10

President López Portillo's state visit here over the weekend was a resounding success because the Mexican leader and Mr Reagan were both determined that the serious differences between them should not get in the way of good relations.

Mexico takes great exception to American policy in El Salvador and is worried about American moves towards Mexico immigration. There are differences between the two countries on oil supplies and they differ in their attitudes towards Cuba and the Caribbean. None of this mattered during President López's visit.

Mr Reagan made good relations with Mexico (and Canada) a centre-piece of his presidential campaign when he announced his candidature 18 months ago. He met President López shortly after his victory, and was to meet him again, in Mexico, when he was shot and wounded. President López's visit to Washington was arranged to replace that lost summit.

President Reagan took his guest to Camp David, for a bucolic weekend unlike the usual round of formal meetings and dinners that are the staple of most state visits. They therefore saw far more of each other than would normally be the case—and they were riding together.

Mr Reagan agreed to go to the North-South conference in Mexico in October, an event that the Mexicans consider of capital importance to their place in the world. In exchange, it was arranged that Dr Fidel Castro of Cuba would miss the meeting.

Leading article, page 17

Science report

Four more years of drought predicted

By the Staff of Nature

The long drought in sub-Saharan Africa, which has been causing immense hardship in countries from Senegal in the west to the Sudan in the east, may come to a temporary end in 1985, two French scientists who have been studying twentieth-century records of the flow of the river Senegal say.

Hugues Faure, a quarternary geologist at Marseille, and Jean-Yves Gac, of the French office for overseas research at Dakar, have poured over discharge measurements taken from 1903 to 1980 at two sampling points on the Senegal, and detected what they claim to be a cycle of drought in the region. Severe droughts return every three decades or so, they say. The droughts of 1973 and 1980 are, they say, interspersed with "humid" conditions lasting about eighteen years. The region should now return to average rainfall by 1985, followed by a humid period, the next drought coming around 2005, the researchers say.

Those remarkable predictions are the result of a remarkable curve: the flow of the river Senegal averaged over seven years, and plotted year by year, shows a saw-tooth pattern. That is to say, for example, that for 1950 Faure and Gac plotted the average flow of the Senegal from 1947 to 1953; for 1961, the average from 1948 to 1954; and so on. That seven-year running mean flow shows an average of about 100 cm per year, with wide fluctuations in flow from year to year around the seven-year mean.

The mean flow shows a steep drop into drought (where annual flows are only half of those in humid times) and a slower rise back to normal.

There have been two humid periods this century, from 1917 to 1937 and 1949 to 1969, and both have shown slight dips towards dryness in the middle of the period. The new, complete cycle of drought and humidity this century, from 1913 to 1941 and 1941 to 1975, are almost exactly equivalent to each other, making this one of the most perfect examples of climatic repeatability yet. It is this that enables the researchers to be so confident about their 1985 prediction.

Others, however, may not be quite so confident. The sub-Saharan rains depend on northward shifts in the boundary of the African monsoon, and such a mass ejection has never before been detected in monsoon movements. More over the source of the Senegal lies in highland regions enjoying quite high rainfall, so its flow does not directly reflect precipitation in the droughts.

There is also no understanding of the need for seven-year means, which happen to show the cycle most clearly. So while Faure and Gac's conclusions are sufficiently convincing to be worth further scrutiny, they should not be taken by the aid agencies as a signal to reduce support to the region over the next few years. Even scientists can be wrong sometimes.

Source: *Nature* vol 291 p 475 (11 June 81).
©Nature-Times News Service, 1981.

US death penalty Bill

From Our Own Correspondent, Washington, June 10

In a move which is bound to provoke an outcry from civil rights organizations and liberal Congressmen, the Senate judiciary committee has voted to approve a Bill designed to reduce the federal death penalty to a mere 100 cases a year. The provisions for crimes such as treason, espionage and presidential assassination.

Senator Strom Thurmond, a Republican from North Carolina, said the death penalty Bill was needed because of the great increase in crime in the country. He predicted it would win approval by the Senate but could run into tough opposition in the House of Representatives.

The Bill represents the most determined attempt to introduce a new death penalty law in the US since 1977 when the Supreme Court invalidated all federal and state death penalty provisions.

The Bill would not apply to the great majority of murders which occur in the United States because most of them are state rather than federal crimes.

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IMPORTANT INFORMATION ABOUT CHILD BENEFIT AND BENEFITS FOR THE UNEMPLOYED.

Because of strike action at DHSS computer centres changes will be necessary in the way these benefits are paid. Please follow these instructions.

Child benefit.

- Until further notice do **not** send your order book to the Child Benefit Centre at Washington. Instead, contact your local social security office.
- Go to your local post office to get your benefit paid in the usual way.
- If your order book runs out you can still go to the post office to be paid. Make sure you take your old order book with you—and your second book if you have one.
- If your circumstances change you must still report it to your local social security office.
- If you want to claim child benefit for a new child you can do so in the normal way, but there will be a delay before you can be paid.

Benefits for the unemployed.

- Go to your local unemployment benefit office as usual. There you will be told how your benefit will be paid.

Issued by the Department of Health & Social Security

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Thai minister quits after accusations

From Neil Kelly, Bangkok, June 10

Informed officials and politicians, however, believe the reason is the accusation made against him in connexion with the drugs case involving a young New Zealand tourist.

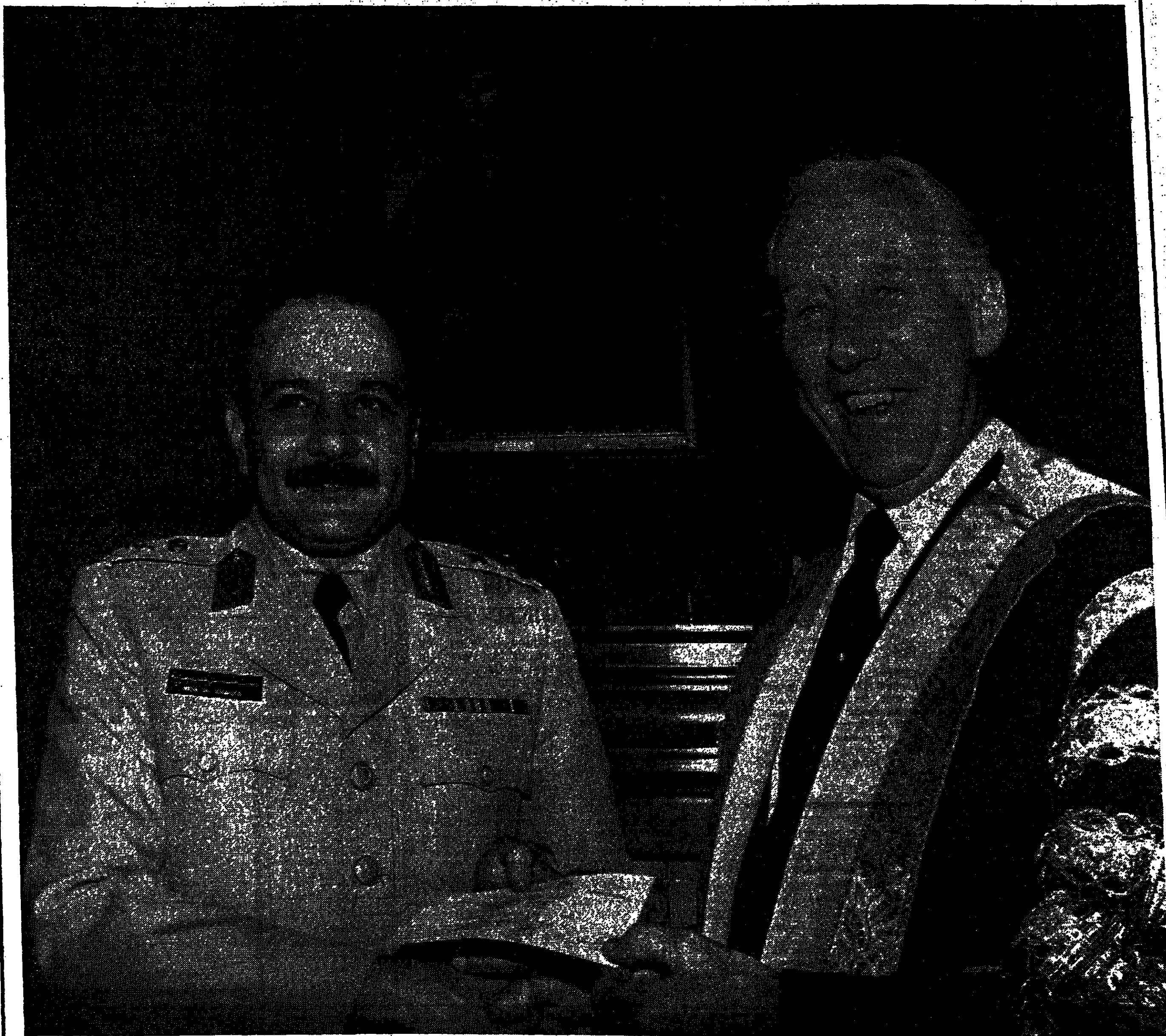
Mr Samak Sundaravej, a prominent MP and former Minister of the Interior, said in Parliament last month that Mr Prathuang had been responsible for the irregular release of the New Zealander, accused of drug trafficking. He challenged the minister to sue him for libel.

Mr Prathuang later denied that he had ordered the release of the New Zealander. He said that he had told the prosecutors to secure the suspect was given justice.

The suspected man was released but his woman companion, also a New Zealander, was sent for trial and sentenced to 33 years and four months imprisonment.

SAUDI ARABIA

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Major General Rida Khalifa, FRCS Ed, head of the Medical Services Division of the Saudi Arabian Ministry of Defence has been authorised by His Majesty King Khalid bin Abdul Aziz of Saudi Arabia, Crown Prince Fahid bin Abdul Aziz, Deputy of the Council of Ministers, Prince Abdullah bin Abdul Aziz, Chief of the National Guard, 2nd Deputy of the Council of Ministers, and Prince Sultan bin Abdul Aziz, Minister of Defence and Aviation and General Inspector, to make a modest donation of £350,000 to the Royal College of Surgeons of Edinburgh, the U.K.'s oldest medical institution founded in 1505.

The donation is intended to further the goodwill set up over the years and to develop further ties between Ministry of Defence and Aviation hospitals in every aspect of healthcare including such areas as research and training.

It is a natural inclination to look to the College for help because of its major contribution to the training of surgeons all over the world, an increasing number of whom are now coming from Saudi.

In practical terms, the donation is being used by the College for the restoration of the

disused St. Michael's church, which will be converted into a symposium and exhibition hall situated within the square adjacent to the main College building. In general this whole square is being redeveloped for postgraduate education at a cost of £1.6 million and will also include a group of 112 graduate residences, and administration offices. Eventually, this whole development phase is aimed at covering a wide area of medicine through to family practice. The result, it is hoped, will be the re-integration of medicine which in the past, because of rapid advances and increased specialisation, has been in danger of a lack of co-ordination.

In accepting the donation, President of the Royal College of Surgeons, Professor John Gillingham, wishes to thank the Government of Saudi Arabia and believes that in doing so, it will help the College to play an even greater role in the education of surgeons, not only from Saudi Arabia, but from all over the world.

In recognition of the donation, the new symposium hall will be called "The King Khalid bin Abdul Aziz of Saudi Arabia Symposium Hall".

This advertisement is donated by Allied Medical Group, London, in association with the Saudi Arabian Government.

Recruitment Opportunities

HEALTH COMMISSION OF VICTORIA AUSTRALIA PSYCHIATRISTS

A number of positions are currently available or will become available for psychiatrists at the level of superintendents, consultants or junior specialists in the Mental Health Division of the Health Commission.

The Health Commission was formed to integrate all of Victoria's Health Services and appointees would be participating in a new stage of medical care with the development of psychiatric facilities in a much closer relationship of general medical facilities and the community. There has been considerable progress in the regionalisation of psychiatric services, most regions having available inpatient, day care, outpatient and community based facilities as well as links with general health and welfare services.

Positions are available in a number of regional cities including Warrnambool, Mildura, Bendigo, Ballarat, Geelong, Dandenong and Traralgon. Some positions are also available in the Melbourne metropolitan area. These positions are in the Forensic Psychiatric Services, the Alcohol and Drug Services and in general psychiatry.

Applications should include name, date and place of birth and nationality, recent passport photograph, address for communication and telephone number, details of medical education, including special qualifications, details of previous employment, names and addresses of 3 referees and should be forwarded to:—

Dr. J. Bomford,
c/o Mr. Eric Snewin,
Senior Migration Officer,
Office of the Agent-General of Victoria,
Victoria House,
Melbourne Place,
Strand,
LONDON, W.2.

Any enquiries can also be directed to the above named. Dr. Bomford will be in London from 13th to 17th July, 1981 and will be expecting to interview interested applicants between those dates.

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The Clerk to the Police Authority,

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Middlesbrough, Cleveland

(0642) 248155 ext. 2015

by whom completed applications should be received by not later than 30th June, 1981.

C. J. A. Hargreaves, Clerk to the Police Authority

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Further particulars are obtainable from the Clerk to the

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Museum Road, Portsmouth, PO1 2QG, to whom

applications, naming three referees,

should be forwarded not later than 19

September 1981, marked Confidential.

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Principal Economic Services Officer

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As the volume of work is increasing another person is now

required to assist with all aspects of financial enquiries

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The work is essentially financial in character and it is

desirable that the postholder has had some training in

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with people in the private sector is necessary and some

relevant experience would be helpful. The ability to

communicate effectively in writing and orally is essential.

For further information please contact Peter Appleyard

(Assistant County Treasurer) or Michael Horton (Group

Economic Services Officer) on 0228 96141

Extension 697 or 554.

For an application form and details please write or telephone

Chief Executive (Personnel), County Hall, Barnardly, South

Yorkshire YO1 2PL, (0224) 6741 ext. 266, quoting ref. no.

T45. Closing date 25th June 1981.

South Yorkshire
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Closing date for completed application forms to be

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THE TIMES

The Times Health Supplement, a weekly

newspaper for the health service, is to be

launched in October. The new newspaper will

cover every aspect of health policy and

management.

Some vacancies remain on the editorial staff of

this newspaper. Applications are invited from

those whose knowledge and experience makes

them suitable for a senior editorial position.

Applicants should write in confidence but

immediately, with a curriculum vitae and

examples of recent work, to Jill Turner, The

Editor, Times Health Supplement, 200 Gray's

Inn Road, London WC1X 8EZ.

Age and nationality are unimportant. Write enclosing

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Theatre

The traditional clown revealed in Beckett

Waiting for Godot

Round House

Claims for this play as a great vaudeville routine are apt to strike all but Beckett's admirers as cultural proseletyzing, like recommending Stravinsky for his catchy tangos. There are not many productions that raise as many laughs as an average piece of stand-up comedy; but this version — launching the wonderful clown partnership of Max Wall and Trevor Peacock — certainly proves that Beckett can hold his own with Muir and Nerdon or any other gag-factory you care to mention.

On its first appearance last November at the Manchester Royal Exchange, Braham Murray's production sprang the initial surprise of presenting Mr Wall's Vladimir as the straight man to Mr Peacock's Estragon, the editor who gets the laughs. That is still the basis of their partnership, and it faithfully reflects the textual relationship. Vladimir is the one with a sense of duty, who never forgets who they are waiting for or what happened the day before; while Estragon cannot keep an idea in his head for more than a minute, apart from his invariably thwarted plans of escape.

However, the original outlines are now luxuriantly swathed in fertile comic business, supplying links after links between Beckett and traditional clowning. When Vladimir hands his partner the carrot, he is sprayed with three times as

Estragon replies with his mouth full. The hat-changing routine has been elaborated into juggling and conjuring tricks. One phrase in French prompts a Galle pantomime duet. The insult game becomes a formal duel at six paces, and amazing things happen with Gogo's boots.

The invention is all perfectly in harmony with the play and strengthens the sense of desolation that prompts the gag.

The partnership is a good example of the quantitative theory of acting: namely that the best performances are those that pack in the greatest number of experiences into the shortest time. In the case of Wall and Peacock there is always the lurking fear of silence; and when, for a moment, they do run out of material there is a panic-stricken pause, eyes bulging with terror, before words again come to the rescue.

Comic routines apart, the relationship is established in a beautiful series of recurring patterns: a flirtatious courtship dance before the daily hug, Mr Peacock's aghast reaction, hand to open mouth, at each reminder of why they are there, the crescendo of laughter leading to Mr Wall's emergency prostate exits.

There are also two well considered performances of

Trevor Peacock (left) and Max Wall in *Waiting for Godot*

Irving Wardle

Runaways/Tomorrow Today

GSMD/Soho Poly

Twice the students of the Guildhall School of Music and Drama have arranged a treat that the impresarios of the London stage have overlooked. Elisabeth Swados is probably the finest talent of the New York musical stage to have appeared, since Stephen Som-

dheim, but in London she is not seen in a shadow of her control. *Runaways* is a perfect showcase for young actors, dancers and singers, elevating the chorus line of musical theatre into something approaching the aggression of *West Side Story*, but made up from specific stories taken from life, from interviews with runaways made by Miss Swados. Her command of musical idiom is wide, as lively to embrace African or Oriental rhythms as disco or Broadway sounds. In *Runaways*

keeping with some rather individual voices which reflect the racial diversity of New York, and the Guildhall students cope very well under the professional direction of Spencer Butler.

There is a lack of structure to the show which could easily displease arbiters of traditional taste, but there is no lack of American project which hurls itself together in a culture which includes prostitution, drug-taking and, in New

York, the artistry of graffiti. Miss Swados binds them together with angry and witty musical lines, and poetically edited speeches. If the Guildhall show suffers, it is from a failure to confront the harshness of the material. Their taste is excellent.

A theatre which has always made way for young people and young writers is the Soho Poly. Even with the territory and recent loss of Verity Bargate, it is still turning out aggressive and imaginative productions.

Ned Chaillet

A group marooned in mediocrity

Moody Blues

Albert Hall

Taking the Moody Blues apart would, at this point, be a fruitless exercise. The tide of rock has long since left them marooned, along with their audience, it is extremely unlikely that they will ever again find themselves back in the mainstream, in a position to influence events or to increase their following.

They certainly pleased their existing fans on Tuesday night, after all they performed favourites like "Nights in White Satin" and "The Balance", and that is enough for some. After observing them closely for two

hours, however, I must say that they fall below the standards of musicianship and presentation expected from bands of their type and experience.

The general air of uninvolved indifference hardly helped. Was Justin Hayward, whose clear voice is their most attractive single feature, enjoying himself? His mind seemed to be elsewhere. Why did no one acknowledge the presence of Patrick Moraz, who pulled out every keyboard cliché in the pomp-rock thesaurus in a diligent attempt to animate the music? Does Ray Thomas's Brummie sarcasm really tempo songs, a deficiency compounded by the outstandingly poor sound quality.

By the end one had grown quite fond of John Lodge, the bassist, who was alone in his

desire to convey some sort of warmth across the footlights. He had the evening's best song, too, in the lyrical "Talking Out of Turn". This comes from their new album, *Long Distance Voyager*, which was heavily featured, down to a trilogy by Thomas which begins with a song combining the mannerisms of Jacques Brel and Ken Dodd, and ends with the ludicrous self-consciousness of "Veteran Cosmic Rocker".

The final impression, gleaned from "I'm Just a Singer in a Rock and Roll Band" and others, is of an utter lack of drive in the up-tempo songs, a deficiency compounded by the outstandingly poor sound quality.

Richard Williams

Arts agenda

Blow to hopes of high-quality States classical theatre

As Broadway applauds the Tony awards to the National Theatre's *Amadeus* and the Royal Shakespeare's *Piuf*, rather less attention is being paid to the collapse of an American project which hoped to produce work of a similar standard in New York. With David Jones, an associate director of the RSC, as artistic director, the BAM Theatre Company was launched in 1979 with the aim of providing "an American classical theatre of the highest quality". The company was planned for an initial three years, but the Brooklyn Academy of Music has decided that there just is not sufficient money to fund the company for a third year.

The first season won critical plaudits but the second provided fewer successes. Jones says people seemed unable to appreciate the way in which a company developed gradually. "The whole New York atmosphere was very instant success or failure. A lack of star names was also a hindrance. He still believes there is a need for such a company, and points to the upsurge in the subscription audience in the second season, but he doubts that the current political climate in America is conducive to such a heavily subsidised venture.

Jones will not return to Britain immediately although he is due back next year to direct two BBC television Shakespeare. He is currently in Los Angeles, where he is producing a new work by a young American playwright, Richard Nelson, which applies the Rip Van Winkle myth to contemporary America. The play was to have been the centrepiece of the third BAM season.

After the success of the British Film Institute's production of *Napoleon*, which is now on tour in America, the BFI is planning to present another silent film classic with full orchestra at this year's London Film Festival. While there may not be another *Napoleon* awaiting rediscovery, the institute believes much of the excitement last year was because people saw a silent film as it was originally shown, with a live orchestra. So it is examining various films, with



the possibility of commissioning a new score for the selected work.

Ideally it would like a film previously seen only in a poor print or a shortened version — one which can be revealed in a fashion close to its original glory. King Vidor's *The Crowd* is one film under consideration.

When Jack Rosenthal's musical *Bar Mitzvah Boy* proved a success in 1978, the author was determined to salvage something from the wreckage: the result was *Smash!* his first stage play which tells the story of the creation of a British musical, complete with characters not totally unrelated to those involved in *Bar Mitzvah Boy*.

Smash! started out in April on a Cambridge theatre company tour, with backing from the West End producer Michael Codron. But, alas, *Smash!* seems no more likely to be a hit than its progenitor. It only gained moderate audience success during the first weeks of the tour and Codron decided against taking the show into the West End. So when the show ended its tour in Richmond upon Thames, the cast, including Maurice Lignani, Nigel Hawthorne and Stephen Moore, all split up.

Hope, however, springs eternal: the show went down very well in Richmond and the Cambridge Theatre Company says there is still a possibility of a West End production in the autumn; moreover, interest has been shown in a television version of the play.

Jack Rosenthal's work will, in any case, return to the stage this autumn with an adaptation of the television play *Spent*, *Spent*, about the pools winner Vivienne Nicholson, which opens the 1981-82 season at the Oldham Coliseum.

The Coliseum is continuing the success story which started when Kenneth Alan Taylor took over as artistic director in 1978. An earlier hit, Alan Bleasdale's *Having a Ball*, has just opened at the Lyric, Hammersmith, and the current show, *One Night Stand*, by Mike Harding, has gone down so well that it has been extended for another fortnight.

Harding's first play, *For Coats and No Knickers*, packed the theatre but was thought "too northern" for the West End, although it is about to go on a national tour. But there is great interest from London managers in *One Night Stand*, a comedy about a struggling pop group in the 1960s.

Later in the year the Coliseum will present the European premiere of a new work by Martin Sherman, whose play about homosexuals in a Nazi concentration camp, *Bent*, won international show of glory. *Crucis*, is very different: it is an outrageous spoof of the typical Agatha Christie whodunnit.

This birthday party had nothing as serious. Propriety heavily had a loss in, certainly not in Mozart's Concerto for

Concerts

Curiously obvious

LSO/Kleiber

Festival Hall

Replacing Karl Böhm on the rostrum in front of the London Symphony Orchestra on Tuesday Carlos Kleiber made each item on his programme seem like a study in orchestral playing. In the slow introduction to Weber's *Freischütz* overture the unanimity of the strings' attack and the tailing-off of their phrases really were remarkable, as were the steep rise and fall both of volume and intensity.

Again in this slow introduction, the entry of the horns created a most striking effect of atmosphere, and of intense concentration. One relished, too, the jewel-like placements of solo woodwind phrases, and the whole was reminiscent of a freshly-cleaned oil painting. Yet some of the dramatic contrast seemed curiously obvious, and it was as if Mr Kleiber's sharp focus on detail resulted in something that was disconcertingly literal.

Schubert's Symphony No. 3 was an unexpected choice, and there is not a lot to be said about this piece, except presumably by students of the development of the teenage composer's style. One does not want to

sound ungrateful for such outstanding orchestral playing, every facet being meticulously shaped, yet the effect was somewhat unrelaxing. For Schubert substituted a 24 Allegretto that was, again, most beautifully played but which should have been more relaxed, strongly in one way jolly, all the contrasts in the peasant-dance-like Minuet were duly stressed and, if the finale was not too fast for its role, it was, nevertheless, it seemed to me much too fast for its music.

Possibly this conductor adopts such rapid tempos in an attempt to recreate the impact the music may be thought to have had when it was new. Such tactics are hardly appropriate for early Schubert, yet might seem plausible for middle-period Beethoven, or even for the reading of Symphony No. 7 fulfilled the expectations aroused by his famous recording, these being positive for the rest of the audience and strongly negative for me. It was, yet again, a very considerable feat of playing on the part of the London Symphony Orchestra. But the character of so much of the music was misrepresented.

Max Harrison

Elisabeth Söderström

Wigmore Hall

To the naked eye, the programme of Elisabeth Söderström's concert on Tuesday, with Martin Isopp, looked like a scholarly historical and geographical exercise. Its first half dealt with Scandinavian song around the turn of this century, after the instant success of Hungarian song. List followed by this year's centenary of Bartók.

Devotees might have known that the pleasure principle dominates ever-repeated by this charmingly informed artistically self-demanding soprano. Two of Grieg's most captivating songs stood at the centre of the Scandinavian group: "Lauf der Sekel," a German poem by Thibaud in Norwegian, and "Last Spring". She compared Stenhamner's dramatic setting of Josephson's

"Flickan kom ifrån", with the one by Sibelius known to many of us as "Black Roses", not superior but a glorious end to the first half. A group by Peterson-Berger found common ground with some of Delius's contemporary songs (eg. "Twilight Fancies"), as well as with Grieg.

There was, similarly, a point of contact to be made in all the first half. The character of each song, not only in Bartók's set, was instantly and completely projected, verbal inflections vivid and poignant.

William Mann

BBCWSO/Groves

Llandaff Cathedral/Radio 3

In his Symphony No. 10, given its first performance on Tuesday at the opening of the Llandaff Festival, for which it was commissioned, Daniel Jones achieves a strong clarification of style with a disciplined economy of expression. This is a logical culmination of a long development, the complexities of the early symphonies (the first appeared in 1944), the personally felt poignancy of the fourth (1954), in memory of Dylan Thomas and the structural originality of the sixth (1968) now yielding to a terse argument.

The four movements take only 20 minutes but embody much of the composer's familiar method. This includes rhythms based on alternating metres (though less noticeably so), the reconciliation of opposites (dissonances which fall naturally within melodic lines), clearly stated tonality and a dramatic climax, but all refined into a concentrated pattern which holds the attention. The tension says only momentarily in the last movement; elsewhere the pressures

are insistent, and the third movement a passacaglia on an idea of Brucknerian gravity given out by the lower strings, is mastery.

The movements are headed "solenn", "menacing" (the expected Daniel Jones scherzo, but darker than its predecessors), "serious" and "agitated". A telling bell and a commanding horn motif claim authority for the symphony's intent at once, and return at the close to underline the unity which is one of the strongest features of a work of powerful impact.

A successful premiere was ensured by the commitment of the BBC Welsh Symphony Orchestra under Sir Charles Groves, an ardent Jones champion who has already recorded three of his symphonies. One hopes they will be joined by the new recordings of the composer's most enthusiastically applauded.

Conductor and orchestra provided for Barbara Gorynska's erratic account of the Mendelssohn Violin Concerto an accompaniment of most exacting accuracy, and a richly coloured performance of the Dvorak Symphony No. 7.

Kenneth Loveland

Piano Extravaganza

Queen Elizabeth Hall

Sixteen gleaming pianos, generously loaned by Steinways, made an impressive sight together on the platform at the Park Lane Group's Grand Piano Extravaganza on Tuesday. It was a cheerfully outrageous way to commemorate the twenty-first anniversary of the lively organization, which through its Young Artists and Twentieth-century Music Series, its opera company, and its own Park Lane Music Players so enhances our musical life.

Giving their services free, so that more of the evening's profit could benefit the Sunshine Fund of the Royal National Institute for the Blind, were 31 eminent pianists. Some, like Susan Bradshaw, John Ogdon, and John McCabe have gone on to great appearances with the Park Lane Group, establish enviable reputations as exponents of new music. Others are relative newcomers, like Keith Burston, who last January gave a masterly performance of Stockhausen's *Klavierstück X* under PLG auspices.

This birthday party had nothing as serious. Propriety heavily had a loss in, certainly not in Mozart's Concerto for

Three Pianos, in whose first movement the orchestral part was taken, for good measure, by yet another three. But authenticity was achieved, if not in a ten-piano arrangement of Liszt's "Magical Legend" or for that matter in Sousa's "Stars and Stripes Forever", here played by six solo and four orchestral pianos, then at least in James P. Johnson's ragtime piano concerto, played by Keith Nichols and his soloists. More seriously, Christopher Green-Armytage had been chosen by draw to represent the present generation of young artists, the guru to be, to C sharp minor Scherzo a mature combination of warmth and brilliance in a meticulous reading.

The revels, though, were to conclude with a flourish of the kind of brilliant virtuosity that Fauré's hilarious joint enterprise with Messager, "Quadrille: Souvenirs de Bayreuth" for piano solo, by Richard Rodney Bennett, a musty arrangement of "The Ride of the Valkyries", for a mere eight pianos and a rather lonely-looking percussionist. But the finale, Scherzo, a dramatic soprano and a ruminative overture, here using all 16 instruments and conducted by Sir Colin Davis, was, for want of a better description, devastating.

Stephen Pettitt

American enthusiasm for early music

Chione d'oro was followed by his setting of the *Beatus Vir*, which uses the same theme to differing emotional ends. The careful rehearsal of all parts added to the enjoyment.

From the many exquisitely built viols, harpsichords and fortepianos I ventured across town to another century. Sarah Caldwell's Opera Company of Boston, now in its twenty-third season, has recently installed itself in the old Savoy Theatre, renamed the Opera House. This pile, built in the 1920s for the Metropolitan Opera, is a quintessential Victorian theatre. Much of the credit for the evening belonged to the organization and conducting of the Cameraata: each section of the concert had its own identity and shape, so that a piece such as Monteverdi's

worked to advantage, particularly in his handling of the final duet. Pearlman should be encouraged to stage further works of this and somewhat later periods.

A group comprising the Boston Cameraata, the New York Cameraata, and the Harvard-Radcliffe Collegium Musicum presented in Jordan Hall of the New England Conservatory, a splendid tribute to Venice in days of glory. The music of the Gabrieli, Monteverdi, Vivaldi and assorted lesser luminaries resounded through that stately Victorian theatre. Much of the credit for the evening belonged to the organization and conducting of the Cameraata: each section of the concert had its own identity and shape, so that a piece such as Monteverdi's

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voice retains that curious volume he now has very little lower voice, and his conception lacks the intensity and drive it once possessed. John Reardon acted Iago well enough, as a virile younger man, but was vocally far too lightweight to provide the necessary opposition. Shirley Verrett's Desdemona offered the most accomplished singing. She has now settled into a unified dramatic soprano, and to her credit, with a solid low register, and, if the voice cannot encompass the kind of effortless spin and softness ideal for her attention to vocal characterization and to vocal expressiveness results in a Desdemona which, if too mature and knowing, none the less grants an affecting final enough, with little orchestral illumination.

Patrick J. Smith

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Boston has long been hospitable to early music, both because of the presence in the vicinity of numerous instrument-makers and because of the consequent growth of organizations which perform in the city, in Cambridge and in the suburbs. It was therefore entirely in keeping that an early music festival was presented there, a festival which included performances, lectures and symposia as well as exhibits of instrument makers from here, Europe and Japan. It is hoped that the festival will become a bi-annual event.

The Banchoff Musicale, a Boston-based early music group, in conjunction with the Boston Lyric Opera, presented Monteverdi's *L'incoronazione di Poppea*, in the Boston University Theatre, in an edition prepared by the Banchoff's founder and director, Martin Pearlman. The spare orchestral forces kept the focus on the singing, and the evening was presented (by both orchestra,

under Pearlman, and singers) in a way which was never anti-grain, always alive and, in Pearlman's English translation, cogent and understandable. The drama of Busenello's libretto was ever to the fore, and if some of the singers (all from the Boston area) were less assured on stage, or working with an alien tradition, the evening was a vindication. If that is necessary today, and it is, of the values of the great score in period clothes.

Jack Eddleman, the producer, sought to work in a tradition not his own, and at times the dichotomy was evident, notably in his staging of the Nerone. No scene as a drinking bout with intimations of an incipient orgy, which is very much in the current vogue but not really indicated by the text. Yet Eddleman's restraint and taste

worked to advantage, particularly in his handling of the final duet. Pearlman should be encouraged to stage further works of this and somewhat later periods.

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NEW BOOKS

His own worst enemy

Monty: The Making of a General, 1887-1942

By Nigel Hamilton

(Hamish Hamilton, £12)

Hagiography is the occupational disease of the official biographer, and there are good reasons why Mr. Hamilton might have succumbed. He was not born at the time of Alamein (with which this first volume ends); not, indeed, until 1944. Through lack of wartime experience — and the scepticism it generates — his judgment might well have been affected by his warm friendship with Montgomery and by the fact that his father, Sir Denis, was about him this is the most accurate, the most explicit, and by far the most illuminating. It is very long. It is bursting with new material, and the narrative, though fluent and engaging, is sometimes prolix and repetitive. Mr. Hamilton's old head is on young shoulders, and his ardour to explain and exemplify contrasts uncomfortably at times with a maturity of mind which seems in total command of its theme and eminently sensible in its verdicts. No matter. The interested layman will be fascinated, and the attentive student will find here a mine of fresh information within which they can hack away happily for years. The irrepressible enfant terrible always wanted his biography, at times with a maturity of mind which seems in total command of its theme and eminently sensible in its verdicts. As Monty's biographer Mr. Hamilton faced two unavoidable problems: psychological explanation of a character so

complicated and wayward that some (we learn) thought him mad, and technical analysis of a military commander's performance which, though outstanding, was less than his own vainglorious pretensions. The portrait of the man is all-important, since depreciation of Montgomery's generalship has too often been founded on the distaste or contempt generated by a personality that even the long-suffering Eisenhower could tolerate no more. Mr. Hamilton has to account for a man who was his own worst enemy.

Montgomery's latorday revelations about early maltreatment by his mother always seemed to be hysterically high pitched. But Mr. Hamilton's fully documented exposure of an extended love-hate relationship leaves no doubt that there is the heart of the matter. From the wound of rejection Monty derived both the lifelong quest for affection, often infantile in its naivete, and also that ruthless determination to show that he too could "come good". The Bishop's with married her son. It is moving to observe, in the revealing letters which he wrote to his mother during the first world war (and which have never been previously published), how even in Armageddon he is making a play for the love he denied.

In the last boyhood of Judas Christ was betrayed.

Montgomery's sense of loss, conscious or unconscious, was a crucible in which, perhaps, now view with a larger charity all the perverse, petty, fatuous, self-advertising and even vicious traits which his biographer recognises as clearly as did his enemies. Commanders are still human beings. Slim was blessed with a stable temperament; Mountbatten had a maelstrom within. Patton and Wavell were bent inside. Mr. Hamilton has served Montgomery well by re-affirming the nature of his particular demon. The passionate and monk-like commitment to professional perfection was, at least in part, an attempt to exercise it. Much new light is thrown on that devouring exercise in self-education, and military colleges could well take Mr. Hamilton's narrative as a text-book demonstration of "the making of a general". Alamein was climactic: the consummation of a learning-process. Mr. Hamilton has done his homework thoroughly; his immensely detailed account of what happened,

after Montgomery arrived in Egypt in 1942 is buttressed by fresh and telling quotations from the relevant War Diaries and other documents, and by interviews with key figures of irreproachable authority who seem to have decided that here, at last, was the time to speak out. Few battles have been more analysed than Alamein, but now, it appears, we shall all have to go back to square one.

Certainly those writers who, relying too much on second-hand evidence from sacking and second-rate generals, maintain that after Auchinleck's "victory" at the so-called "first Alamein" he had a specific and viable plan for defeating Rommel's next offensive — which Montgomery "stole" — or that Eighth Army was then in anything but disarray, with further retreat a known possibility, will have to think again. Mr. Hamilton's accumulated testimonies are decisive: no one, for example, can deny the absolute authority of Field Marshal Lord Harding as it is now disclosed. It confirms what those of us who were in the desert at the time sensed after Monty took over: a sea-change was happening, and there was a different, invigorating tang in the air.

It is impossible to summarize the many new, and sometimes disquieting, insights into Alamein. Montgomery's positive attitude towards the Ultra intelligence, for example, will surprise those who claim that it was disquieting. The senior commander's attitude was known, but it is stunning to discover that the withdrawal of our tank divisions from the battlefield was not, as is usually assumed, an effort to create a reserve force for further attacks, but an act of despair about their lethargy. There is much meat here for contentious historians.

Monty's faith was that his private papers would vindicate him. So far, this seems to be the case. And his biographer, by contrast, was at least in part, an attempt to exercise it. Much new light is thrown on that devouring exercise in self-education, and military colleges could well take Mr. Hamilton's narrative as a text-book demonstration of "the making of a general". Alamein was climactic: the consummation of a learning-process. Mr. Hamilton has done his homework thoroughly; his immensely detailed account of what happened,

Ronald Lewin



What can all these, knight at arms... In the long, hot summer of 1858 Edward Burne-Jones found himself much in the company of the formidable Sara Prinsep, Egeria of the salon that gathered in her home, Little Holland House. He was introduced by Rossetti, his master and hero. Mrs. Prinsep did not think Rossetti a suitable influence on the delicate young painter, and moved Burne-Jones into the house for several months to be nursed and kept in the right company. About this time he made up the Little Holland House Album for Mrs. Prinsep's youngest sister, Sophia, the youngest of the seven Patten sisters who played such an important role in mid-Victorian cultural life. It transcribes eight romantic poems, each with graceful pen-and-ink drawings in illustration. They have never been published before, but now appear in facsimile with an introduction and notes by John Christian — the first publication of a new private press, The Dalrymple Press of Leuchie, North Berwick, in a limited edition of 530.

Stands Scotland where it did?

The End of British Politics?

By William L. Miller

(Oxford, £17.50)

Is Britain one nation, or two, or many nations? Have the social and regional differences so evident in the behaviour of the electorate in 1979 come to erode that sense of belonging to a single country which writers such as George Orwell noticed in the 1930s? In *The End of British Politics?* is concerned with one central aspect of this question: its aim is to outline the specifically Scottish dimension of the British civil society, and to show how the gap in attitudes between the English and Scottish voter is at least as great as that between different social classes. Indeed, Miller believes that the Scottish dimension will again come to threaten, as it did between 1924 and 1929, the very existence of Britain as a United Kingdom.

The Parliamentary Union of 1707 joined Scotland and England politically while leaving Scottish civil society untouched. Paradoxically, however, twentieth-century developments have served to narrow the social differences between English and Scottish voters, while drawing them apart politically. The expansion of government and its centralization in Westminster and Whitehall have sapped the vigour of Scottish local institutions, for in Scotland, as Walter Elliot noticed, nationalization meant de-nationalization — less accountability rather than more. Belief in the virtues of central planning became an essential

cement of political Union. When that belief collapsed, it was natural for Scots to use their electoral strength to secure benefits from a seemingly insensitive London government; or alternatively, to threaten to opt out of the British political system entirely by voting for the SNP.

Through a painstaking analysis of electoral data, Miller proves quite conclusively the existence of a distinctively Scottish approach to politics, displayed not only in attitudes to nationwide United Kingdom problems such as housing and education, but also in specifically Scottish issues. Devolution, he argues, is a conventional wisdom tells us, is dead. Yet Miller shows how widespread and stable the demand for Scottish self-government remains, a demand by no means confined to the SNP. Indeed, he estimates that at around 60 per cent of the electorate, despite wide swings in support for the Scottish Nationalists.

It is a pity that Miller is unable to analyse the evolution of Scottish opinion since 1979, or to reach a conclusive verdict on whether the demand for Scottish self-government was deep and genuine, or merely an unthinking reflex to the importunities of the political interviewer. Indeed, it may well be that the weapons of the electoral survey, however technically sophisticated, are hardly subtle enough to detect those feelings central to a group's conception of its nationality. Miller's data would have led one to expect a far more substantial majority for devolution than in fact materialized in the referendum of 1979, that turning

point of Scottish politics when Scottish politics obstinately refused to turn. He attributes the defeat of devolution to essentially short-term factors — resentment at public sector strikes, and the unpopularity of the Callaghan government — but it is at least as plausible to explain the strong demand for devolution between 1965 and 1974, and the spectacular growth of the SNP in 1974 in terms of an increase in Scottish self-confidence now shattered by mounting unemployment and industrial closures.

Miller's belief is that Scottish and English political attitudes will continue to diverge, and he offers persuasive arguments in support of this view. Indeed, the repeal of the Scotland Act was itself a symptom of the gap in attitudes since a majority of Scots voters had endorsed it and Scottish MPs opposed its repeal by 41 votes to 13. George Younger, the Secretary of State for Scotland, enjoys the support of only 22 Conservative MPs in Scotland, and this makes him less a representative of Scotland to the Cabinet than a prefect imposed by an unpopular government upon an outlying region of the country.

The End of British Politics? is a powerful plea for recognition of the urgent need for constructive constitutional change in Scotland, although Miller is realistic enough to appreciate that "the record of British governments in squandering the precious resources of peaceful time gives no ground for optimism."

Vernon Bogdanor

Naked at the Feast, the biography of Josephine Baker (Robson, £7.50). In the first volume of the series, published on June 25.

years in the slum for allegedly whacking the local butcher over the head) is, so to speak, and as some of us say, outta sight. The Six Problems are wonderfully convoluted, wonderfully funny, and wonderfully accurate. Each is snatched from the jaws of the law by powers of deduction which make Mr. Hercule Poirot's little grey cells seem downright inadequate.

"But I still believe, sir, that a man has to shift for himself." Don Isidro has found prison a good place to learn about the world. Mr. Borges has a keen sense of the world. His collaboration with Adolfo Bioy-Casares whirled with Norman Thomas of Giovanni Amerigo has a keen sense of the world. There is not an illusion in sight. A return ticket, please.

Gay Firth

Great expectations

The State of the Presidency

By Thomas E. Cronin

(Hutchinson, £8.95)

When President Johnson was in the White House he began a library on the Presidency, and had a standing order for every new book on the subject. Presumably his successors cancelled the order because such is the attraction of the institution for political scientists, politicians, and journalists that the collection would now be overflowing into the executive office building next door.

There are a number of reasons for this, apart from the importance of the office. For instance, its powers are supposed to be strictly defined in the Constitution, but since 1933 they have changed a good deal more than those of the Prime Minister, and are still changing under the present incumbent. In fact, the office of Prime Minister has long been more presidential in that the occupant of No 10 has far more power, relatively speaking, than

that normally assumed of the American Presidency. The usefulness of this book is that it tries to explain why.

It also explores the semi-mythical surrounding the office, the respect which few Prime Ministers have enjoyed since Britain ceased to be a deferential society. This emotional approach explains much: the high expectation on inauguration Day, when the world seems new and everything possible, and the inevitable disappointment and occasional cynicism when the incumbent has proved to be just another President.

The state of the Presidency is more often than not the state of the nation, and Mr. Cronin tries and in part at least succeeds in telling us why. Arguably his book already outdistances in that respect the best of its kind. It is a book which, with its preference for cabinet government over the emotional, pressurized, and checks and balances, is a subject which is fairly constant, and Mr. Cronin knows them rather better than some other President watchers.

Louis Heren

The Matriarch

The Queen Mother By Elizabeth Longford

(Weidenfeld & Nicolson, £7.95)

Lady Longford is herself, of course, the literary world's surrogate Queen Mother. Matriarch of a large, noble and talented family (not without its own black sheep), she radiates the kind of very personal charm even the most cynical cannot resist; and long after the generation behind her has come to the fore, she continues to maintain her own standards of productivity and excellence.

If there is, therefore, some disappointment that this book does not approach the scale and thoughtfulness of her earlier biographies, there is meanwhile the consolation that no one can be better qualified to chronicle the life and times of Queen Elizabeth than Lady Longford.

Lady Longford's "more eccentric musings" are, however, it was, she declares, that Elizabeth Bowes-Lyon should become Queen only 14 years after marrying the Duke of York — one senses the author turning the mirror upon herself.

This is not a year for expressing reservations about the Royal Family, nor has there ever been a year when there was any mileage in attacking the Queen Mother. Godfrey Talbot's saccharine volume for *Country Life* three years ago plumb the depths of royal cynicism. Lady Longford, more appropriately, simply gives credit where it is due.

Lady Elizabeth Bowes-Lyon did not want to become a Princess. She subscribed to the dictum of the late Princess Alice: "None but those trained from youth to such an ordeal can sustain it with amiability and composure." (The Arts Page on Spencer, we should hardly note, has been trained to it from birth.) So, at first, she turned down the proposal of King George V's younger son.

When he begged her into accepting the role, she made the making of the man. This shy, stammering, insecure figure, soon to become King George VI, grew eventually into the nation's rallying-point in its darkest hours. His wife, during the war, anticipated Nancy Reagan by keeping a revolver by her bed; how typical of her not to use it, merely press the bell, when a hostile and penetrating eye Buckingham Palace bedroom.

Lord Weidenfeld seems to have become the leading publisher of royal biographies at a time when the field is apparently crowded. I must, as another who wears his colours, declare my interest; but Lady Longford's handsomely produced volume is a proud achievement. It is a metaphor for her subject, if she will pardon the expression, would be the first to approve.

Anthony Holden

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Alternative Raj

A Biographical Dictionary of the British Colonial Governor

Volume I: Africa

By Anthony H. M. Kirk-Greene

(Harvester, £40)

In death as in life, it is the Indian Empire which most excites the British when they contemplate their imperial experience, juniper fire and verandah tea, Cawnpore, Mrs. Hawksbee, *The Far Pavilions* and all that. The old preoccupation gives an extra freshness now to books about the rest of the lost empire, and offers happy new fields of endeavour to scholars and artists ready to delve into other imperial myths. A pioneer in this promising safari is Anthony Kirk-Greene of St Antony's College Oxford, himself a *quondam* District Officer, who has made a specialty of might be called the socio-political study of British administration in Africa. He calls it propo-

graphy, and it consists of a minute examination of the minds of men who ruled the 20 odd African possessions seized by the British at one time or another. This is a harder job than it may sound, for colonial documentation was unexpectedly patchy, colonies repeatedly changed names and status, titles varied from one possession to another, and some colonialists it seems were not above slightly fudging their entries in *Who's Who*.

Mr. Kirk-Greene, though, is nothing if not a stickler, and his book is striking evidence of his perseverance, for it gives us in effect all known biographical and bibliographical details about every British Governor who served in Africa between the 1870s, when the Crown really became the Colonial Power, and the end of the empire in the 1960s. The 329 entries it is not a volume likely to find its way into many private libraries, but it will clearly be invaluable to all future students and celebrators of the British Empire. Its author boasts endearingly that from it you may discover

the professions of gubernatorial fathers-in-law, or the frequency with which Governors married wives, and indeed the box of all of dead-pan entertainment. How marvellous that Edward Twining, one-time Director of Labour in Mauritius, should have become "Lord Twining of Godalming" on the way to the House of Lords. How splendid that Charles Elton, Commissioner of the British East Africa Protectorate, should be such an expert on Buddhism, Finnish grammar, and the life of the sheep! Mr. Kirk-Greene is not absolutely infallible. He mis-titles Mr. Philip Mason's most famous book, and he evidently does not realize that Brigadier-General Valerius Gough, former Administrator of the Gambia died during home leave from St. Lucia in 1897. But his book, to be followed by a second volume on the Eastern Hemisphere, is as complete a source-book as almost anyone could wish — a treasury of characters for future novelists, a mountain of fuel for the writers' computer, and an Associate Professor's eager seminars.

Jan Morris

Fiction

Noble House

By James Clavell

(Hodder & Stoughton, £8.95)

Trade Wind

By M. M. Kaye

(Allen Lane, £7.50)

Swan's Wing

By Ursula Sygne

(Bodley Head, £4.95)

Six Problems for Don Isidro Parodi

By Jorge Luis Borges and Adolfo Bioy-Casares

(Allen Lane, £5.95)

Illusion stalks those of us who brood over the quest for the novel-reading on the Central Line. Escalator ads become dust jackets in disturbing *déjà vu*. Fellow travellers slump into stories. Force-fed with fiction, incipient dementia, interpolated, dotted double exposures: book titles more plausible than actual ones. If *Cheap Day Return* and *One Russell Hobbs Deserves Another* have not come up for review, it is only a matter of time.

Until the quiet men in white coats arrive it seems possible still to believe that neither this, me, nor Auntie Mabel is due to count to suppose that James Clavell's 1,115 pages and M. M. Kaye's 551 add up to more than a row of beans. These are blockbusters. It is not indeed often that two books of this size follow that blockbusters are two cents' worth of entertaining — never mind meritorious — fiction. I would not give *Swan's Wing*, still less *Jorge Luis Borges' elegant extravaganza*, achievements. This raises it all to a pinnacle of speculative fantasy, which is at least level with Asimov's great Foundation Trilogy; later consideration may reveal that this has outpaced the other. The reader will find himself overwhelmed by intellectual and emotional shockwaves for a long time after an ending which is unique in this kind of literature.

We are three thousand years from the original sand-wreacked planet of Arrakis: that sand has been gusted away by Mr. Herbert's imagination, which now sees the planet ruled by Leto, seemingly immortal after a symbiotic union with the giant sandworm which makes him a vast tubular creature with only a human face to tell of origins. To many he is a tyrant worm, but his ways have purpose in moving humankind forward into new patterns of living.

The author uses the device of Arrakis and Leto to examine, in a philosophical, free will. These are dissertations layered with narrative which envision the essential spirit that requires Leto to be sacrificed destroyed before a new life form assumes control: the worm? the bud finds the

for a wilderness of blockbusters. *Noble House* comes fourth in an historical series set in Mr. Clavell's less than mysterious, more gratuitously vulgar visions of the East. In this case, it is about money, kidnapping, money, espionage, fire, murder, landside and money, with little bits of what you fancy on the side. The series are not out as if by computer. The action (trackless Colonial, international, and Chinese double-dealing) covers only a week.

Of Miss Kaye's sallies into the alleys of history, fiction, and must in charity be said that *Trade Wind* was heavily edited for first publication in 1963. Set in slave-trading Zanzibar in the mid-nineteenth century, now put in the last rustling palm frond and either twang of the original writing; it piggybacks upon enormous tales.

Her prose style is must in charity be added to that for which Miss Barbara Cartland is famous. It is a tale of two pilgrims. Lothar wanders, seeking relief for his affliction: a swan's wing in place of an arm. The story is told with a most admirable exactness of language, gravely, by Matthew, master maker of

lasted glories in stone to adorn cathedrals soaring out of medieval faith: timeless guardians of such humility as we have left; as children guard our innocence. Matthew is himself a wanderer, seeking relief for his affliction: a swan's wing in place of an arm. The story is told with a most admirable exactness of language, gravely, by Matthew, master maker of

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Where Time Winds Blow, by Robert Holdstock (Faber, £6.95). On a planet where time shifts and a group of surgically disabled humans try to find reasons for their environment and themselves, Faulcon leads to find answers. Mr. Holdstock is adept at suggesting those things glimpsed at the corner of the eye; a powerful imagination at work.

Silence Is Deadly, by Lloyd Biggle Jr (Mills & Boon, £5.95). On the planet of the deaf the one-eyed man is very much at the mercy of others. Well-paced narrative which accelerates to a notable climax, in pursuit of a death-ray, in a place where silence is not only golden but inevitable.

The Cool War, by Frederik Pohl (Collins, £5.95). Unlabeled by the author, himself recruited into an American spy force which inflicts tiny, irritating damage on the other side, just in the same way they're doing it to us: that's why he's going away with a swan's wing. Pohl's satire is always distanced and savage, but here he becomes too entangled in plot for his or our good. Effective way of estab-

lishing what kind of future it is, though, where Washington has "statues to the Watergate Martyrs".

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Nicholas Kenyon retails the whole story with candour and thoroughness, and also with grace and wit. —Paul Griffiths, The Times

PARLIAMENT June 10 1981

Law Report June 10 1981

Court of Appeal

Minister sees little need for extra rate levies

Mr. Tom King, Minister for Local Government and Environmental Services, stated in the Commons that he was concerned at reports that a number of local authorities intended to levy supplementary rates this year, although he had no official notification of their intention to do so.

He hoped that any such authorities would reduce their proposed expenditure in the course of reviewing their budgets and that the Government had requested, and that such reductions would remove the need to levy a supplementary rate.

Mr. Gerald Kaufman, chief Opposition spokesman on environment, criticized what he called a black-market circular being sent by the Department of the Environment to local authorities threatening to send in auditors.

Mr. King replied that it was a technical circular for borough treasurers about which there had been misunderstanding.

He said that the circular was a draconian step by the Secretary of State.

In exchanges about the situation in London, Mr. King said that some straight answers? Well, he said, the circular was not a technical circular to local authorities but a circular to the Secretary of State, and whether he intended to send in auditors to check the accounts of local authorities.

On paragraph 10, will be told us to which local authorities he is sending out this black-market circular, and whether he intends to send in auditors to check the accounts of local authorities?

Will he confirm that the rate support grant under the Local Government Finance Act 1973 is not a statutory right but a discretionary grant? Can we have precise answers?

LOCAL FINANCE

Mr. King: I recognise Mr. Kaufman's ability to try and extract the maximum amount of political capital out of what is a boring technical circular. (Laughter)

On whether any grant will be paid if a form is not received, if he cares to study the operation of the grant, he will see that the grant scheme, no grant can be paid to any authority unless it returns its application form. It is the standard way in which the grant has to be paid.

This House would be the first to complain if it was done otherwise. There is no more significant to that sentence than that I am sorry I have to kill that issue.

Of inflation assumptions, this is a matter under discussion with the local authority associations. There is a distinction between volume and inflation. It is necessary to ensure that the inflation assumptions are realistic.

Mr. Gerald Kaufman (Manchester, Ardwick, Lab.): Will he give some straight answers? Will he say whether paragraph 10 of the circular is a technical circular to local authorities or a circular to the Secretary of State, and whether he intends to send in auditors to check the accounts of local authorities?

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King: Technical circular

Will Mr. King accept and confirm that one association, the Association of Metropolitan Authorities, has requested withdrawal of paragraph 9 because it regards the sending of auditors into town halls as unacceptable. Has he withdrawn paragraph 9?

Mr. King: I can confirm that this circular is a technical circular to local authorities. It is not a circular to the Secretary of State. It is a circular to the Secretary of State, and whether he intends to send in auditors to check the accounts of local authorities.

On paragraph 10, will be told us to which local authorities he is sending out this black-market circular, and whether he intends to send in auditors to check the accounts of local authorities?

Will he confirm that the rate support grant under the Local Government Finance Act 1973 is not a statutory right but a discretionary grant? Can we have precise answers?

Pollution control is reviewed

WASTE

Consignments of industrial waste imported in recent months indicate that some provisions of the Control of Pollution Act, including those governing temporary storage, may not be working as intended. Mr. Tom King, Minister for Local Government and Environmental Services, said the Department of the Environment intended to take steps to prevent the importation of poisonous wastes from neighbouring European countries, said: It is absurd that our so-called friends in Europe should be shipping away highly dangerous wastes into this country.

He should do something to deal with the rubbish that is being imported, trying to make money out of it, to pollute our environment, instead of constantly attacking local authorities whose job it is to keep it clean.

Mr. King: That is an extremely misleading statement. The question is what is a serious matter. The vast bulk of wastes are not highly dangerous, but a nuisance. They should be kept in a safe place, properly declared, but this is a matter on which I cannot comment further because of the possibilities of prosecution.

We are anxious to ensure that goods that come to this country are properly described. If they are described as goods in trade, that is what they should be and not waste.

Doctrine of unity rejected as a medieval fiction

Midland Bank Trust Co Ltd and Another v Green and Another (No 3)

Before Lord Denning, Master of the Rolls, Lord Justice Fox and Sir Geoffrey Goff.

Midland Bank Trust Co Ltd and Another v Green and Another (No 3) is a case about the doctrine of unity of husband and wife. It is a case about the doctrine of unity of husband and wife. It is a case about the doctrine of unity of husband and wife.

The action had been commenced by the Midland Bank Trust Co Ltd and Another against Mrs. Beryl Rosalie Kemp, the second defendant, from the refusal of Mr. Justice Oliver (1979) Ch 496 to set aside an order for an inquiry as to damages for conspiracy made against her in an action defended by her, her defence having been struck out.

The action had been commenced by the Midland Bank Trust Co Ltd and Another against Mrs. Beryl Rosalie Kemp, the second defendant, from the refusal of Mr. Justice Oliver (1979) Ch 496 to set aside an order for an inquiry as to damages for conspiracy made against her in an action defended by her, her defence having been struck out.

The MASTER OF THE ROLLS said that in March 1961 Walter Green agreed to grant his son Geoffrey an option to purchase Gravel Hill Farm, Thornton-le-Moor, Lincolnshire. The option was to remain effective for 10 years. The son, Geoffrey, was to be treated in the same way.

LORD JUSTICE FOX, concurring, said that at the end of a journey through some seven centuries of authorities it was not surprising that the English law of property, which directly determined that a husband and wife could not, by themselves, conspire together so as to be liable in tort for conspiracy, was, therefore, at large.

SIR GEORGE BAKER, concurring, said that the law adapted and developed to the needs of living people whom it had to govern. It was not necessary, in tort, there must not merely be an agreement which must be made with the intention of damaging the plaintiff but damages must in addition be sustained.

Ex-wife's lump-sum claim postponed

Hardy v Hardy

Before Lord Justice Ormrod, Lord Justice Dunn and Lord Justice Waterhouse.

The Court of Appeal said that although there were many cases where it was convenient to deal with a wife's application under section 10 of the Matrimonial Causes Act, 1973, together with her applications for ancillary relief, there were some occasions where a distinction had to be drawn between the powers of the court under section 10 and under sections 23 or 24 of the Matrimonial Causes Act, 1973. If that was the case the practice was manifestly wrong and required revision.

Evidence was filed which showed that although the husband had no capital assets he had a substantial income. The wife had moved to a rented house and was in receipt of social security. When the matter came before the registrar, Mr. Martineau applied for the wife's application for a lump sum to be adjourned generally so that she could make the application when the husband had assets.

The registrar refused and went on to consider the application for a lump sum. He found that the husband had no assets and that the wife had a substantial income. He dismissed the application. He made a declaration that the husband was the wife's husband for the wife was reasonable and fair.

There were no circumstances which would justify the registrar or judge in dismissing the application for adjournment. It was essential in such a case that the wife's position should be protected.

Lord Justice Dunn delivered a concurring judgment and Mr. Justice Waterhouse agreed. Solicitors: Hancock & Willis for Hodgkinson & Talents, Newark, Manches & Co.

HOUSE OF LORDS Demands for end to sex and race discrimination

Women and the ethnic minorities occupied a "disproportionate number of skilled jobs in clerical and manufacturing work," Lord Sear (Lab.) said when he opened a debate in the House of Lords on the need for legislative action to end sex and race discrimination in the United Kingdom. He said that the Government's failure to do so was a disgrace.

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Not so fast over water summonses

ENVIRONMENT

Some water authorities are now reviewing the speed with which they issue summonses to people who have not paid their bills, Mr. Tom King, Minister for Local Government and Environmental Services, said during questions.

Mr. King said that the Government had no plans to review the powers of water authorities to issue summonses to people who have not paid their bills. He said that the Government had no plans to review the powers of water authorities to issue summonses to people who have not paid their bills.

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Hotel and restaurant fiddling

SERVICE CHARGES

The present system of imposing service charges on hotel and restaurant bills offered scope for inspired fiddling and ripping off, Mr. Tom King, Minister for Local Government and Environmental Services, said during questions.

Mr. King said that the Government had no plans to review the powers of water authorities to issue summonses to people who have not paid their bills. He said that the Government had no plans to review the powers of water authorities to issue summonses to people who have not paid their bills.

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Rights of parents of handicapped child

Amendments warning

The Government accepted a new clause to the Education Bill to give parents the right to be informed when a child is referred to a school, the child would expect to be referred to a school, the child would expect to be referred to a school.

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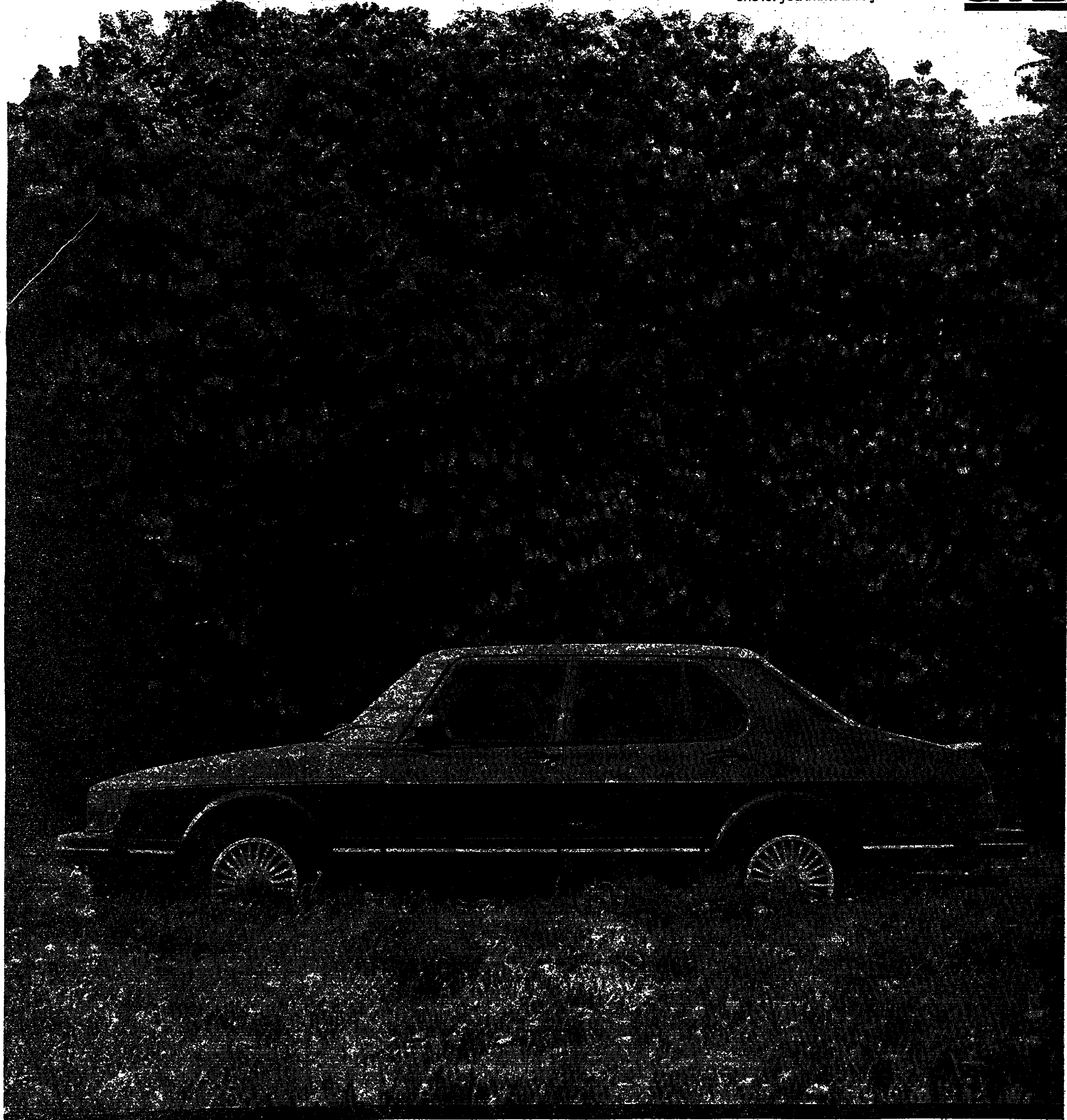
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A concrete solution for the railways

The state expenditure clause is filling the air with demands for extensive and expensive programmes of railway electrification. But the prior question should be whether railways should continue to operate in Britain at all.

In this country railways are an increasingly costly anachronism, and would be so even were it not for nationalisation and consequent constituency importunities and trade union domination.

Since the end of the Second World War British Rail has cost the public tens of billions at present-day prices. Through this debt, BR's present over-estimated budget for further electrification, and the accumulated cost of maintenance deferred to permit over-spending on wages and salaries and deferral of price-increases, are only a fraction of the real current loss. For rail is not only costly in manpower and energy, it is fantastically wasteful of a vital scarce resource: the right of way through town, suburb and countryside.

Britain has only 1,250 miles of motorway, and not much in the way of other segregated trunk roads. For the rest, traffic—private and public, passenger and freight—has to pass through residential streets and country lanes, with houses and shops bordering them, and sewers, cables and other ducts passing underneath.

The road and street network has to carry over 80 per cent of all passenger and freight mileage, the residual 20 per cent being divided equally between coastal shipping and inland rail. The rail network, which possesses 11,000 miles of segregated right of way, made up of anything from multi-track lines with their sidings and marshalling yards—each capable of carrying an ultra motorway with way and yet leaving a good deal of land over—down to two-track lines, which are capable of providing for at least an adequate two-lane highway for through



John Cameron

by Alfred Sherman

freight services and express buses and coaches, which are present plough through our high streets.

The railway network is now being used to less than 5 per cent of feasible capacity, while our streets and their environs are turned into a permanent hell. A high proportion of road accidents occur in built-up areas. Transferring part of the road traffic on to segregated tracks—several times the total length of our motorway system—would reduce accidents.

The contrast between road over-crowding and rail-based under-utilization is particularly acute in our great conurbations, eg. the London metropolitan region. The vast network of suburban and connecting lines, particularly non-radials, was developed when rail and horse were complementary. By now, nearly all of the small freight services and depots have been closed, and many of the passenger services too, leaving many lines in the network with only a few trains a week.

As Professor Peter Hall of Reading demonstrated in detail, this network could be used—without even halting

necessary train movements—to supplement the metropolitan regions' trunk road service so simply that practically all through and heavy traffic and public transport (coach, and bus in many cases) could be taken off London and suburban streets.

Railways, however powered, became an anachronism with the development of the pneumatic tyre, which permits any loads to be carried on standard roads, given reasonable axle-loading. Road transport obviates double handling, inevitable with rail in all but very large bulk loads.

Many passenger rail journeys, particularly inter-city, began and end by road, obliging many passengers to come to the centre from the periphery at both ends, multiplying congestion. By contrast, express coaches (with VCs and comfortable springs) are both more adaptable to variable need, and can act as feeders at both ends of their main run.

So far, the main obstacle to inland transport's accommoda-

tion to the twentieth century has been rail, vested interests, both management and union, and political powers and standard of luxury would disappear with the iron dinosaur.

But BR has been actively helped in resisting change by the Ministry of Transport (as almost all nationalized work-simulation and waste centres are by "their" departments).

It has exploited all its bureaucratic skills to this end. Indeed, many of the Ministry of Transport briefs against closures, against conversion and in favour of greater expenditure on electrification, appear to originate from British Rail's propaganda workshops, which do not stop at simple causality, but ride roughshod over ascertainable fact, as the Advertising Standards Commission, among others, has ruled, on several occasions.

For example, in spite of Ministry briefs, exact measurement shows that there are hardly any existing railways unsuitable for conversion into

roads. In a few cases, bridges may cause difficulties, but almost none are insuperable. What little environmental disturbance might be created by conversion would be negligible compared with traffic's ravages in towns.

Contrary to BR claims, rail uses much more fuel per passenger or freight mile than coaches, and rather more than small cars, taking actual use figures, and not theoretical ones which assume all trains to be fully loaded, and all cars with one passenger.

Railway engines and coaches are heavy and robust, so they are heavy and move a great deal of their own weight per passenger, even when filled to near capacity. The great weight of trains entails long stopping distances, hence relatively low frequencies, and a highly complicated costly system of signals, all vulnerable to union disruption.

Cars and coaches being lighter and better suited to braking, have much lower stopping distances; they entail little in the way of signals and thus can carry a far greater number of people on a given track, and provide their own

feeder services. Roads cannot stop on a strike. Electrification entails transferring fuel to heat steam to motion, with substantial losses (symbolized by cooling-towers) motion to electricity, some of which is used up in transmission and transforming, and then electricity into traction. With losses at each stage, it is lucky to achieve 15 per cent efficiency.

Railway propaganda claims that electrification would save oil. But the amount saved would equal one per cent of total consumption (transport accounts for 20 per cent of total British oil consumption) at a cost 10 times that of producing that quantity of oil from coal, and even greater than that of expanding NSO production by a comparable amount.

BR's total costings for electrification have no relation to costs already generated in the recent Bedford line scheme. (Electrification also entails vast sums on signalling and new engines.) It will do so, like the gift of ships to Poland, at the expense of taxpayers and other users of these resources, at the cost of re-equipment of the private sector of British industry, and of exports. (There is certainly an export market in railway electrification equipment, since those countries capable of using such equipment invariably manufacture it.)

When their rationalizations are disposed of, it remains an accident that British Rail, for the sake of self-perpetuation—keeping Sydney Weighell turning—is not just wasting billions of taxpayers' money, but is depriving us of a priceless asset: the road-bed needed to provide urban and country roads to meet all our transport needs for decades to come without digging up a field or demolishing a house.

Can the nation not repossess its property and put it to social use? True, it will provide some work for British industry. But it will do so, like the gift of ships to Poland, at the expense of taxpayers and other users of these resources, at the cost of re-equipment of the private sector of British industry, and of exports. (There is certainly an export market in railway electrification equipment, since those countries capable of using such equipment invariably manufacture it.)

Ronald Butt

By-election of the century

The Social Democratic Party does not yet have a leader. Mr. Jenkins is the only one who has not yet been elected. The party is in a state of flux, and the by-election is a crucial test of its future.

His great strength is that he enters this fight to capture a Labour stronghold at precisely the moment when the great question of the future alternative to Conservative government in Britain needs to be taken out of the background and into the country. The time has come when it is no longer enough for the matter to be fought out in Labour Party and union (or even SDP) caucuses, or in attacks by Mr. Benn on his colleagues and their philosophies against him. The opinion of the voters needs to be asked, and Mr. Jenkins is right to ask it in a Labour stronghold.

Warrington electors will have to answer the question which sooner or later, will confront Britain's voters as a whole. Will they have, as the alternative to the Conservatives, a Labour Party cast in an exclusively leftist mould (whether or not of Behnke allegiance) accountable primarily to the party machine rather than to the electors through a Parliament? Or do they want a social democratic party more or less of the traditional Labour kind, evolving from the roots planted by Asquith and Lloyd George in the early years of the century?

It is Mr. Jenkins's strength that he is prepared to fight where he is by no means certain of victory. In the end, the calibre of a politician is to be judged by his willingness to take risks when he judges the cause great enough and Mr. Jenkins takes the risk of being beaten. Yet Warrington is a seat that the Social Democrats may win, and striking a balance of the opinion polls so far, it could be a neck-and-neck finish between SDP and Labour.

Whether Mr. Jenkins wins or loses he will have maximum political exposure as Labour's former deputy leader and a successful Chancellor of the Exchequer. If he wins he will be the only Social Democratic MP to have been elected under that flag, and who then easily re-asserts his claim to be leader? Not, certainly, Mrs. Williams; nor, I think, Dr. Owen or Mr. Williams Rogers.

Even if he loses, Mr. Jenkins will still have the credentials of a leader, and the time comes for the choice of an SDP leader. But no less important is the scope that the Warrington campaign will give him to formulate the basics of social democratic policy and to state his own discretion.

By the nature of things, he must largely construct his own platform; there is no party line for him to toe. He comes to this by-election, as a potential leader, more free to chart the direction of his party's policy than any other political leader in the country, and to take his personal vision of a social democratic future to the electors in the manner in which great nineteenth century leaders took their cause to the hustings.

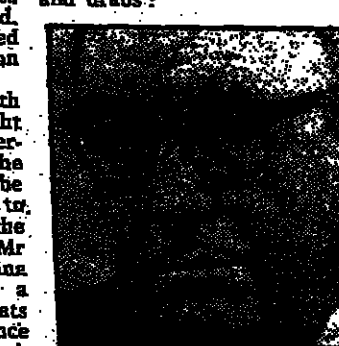
The most fascinating question overhanging the campaign is whether he will launch the kind of centrist appeal that is characteristic of the Liberals who have for so long failed to make headway with it, or whether he sets his sights firmly on the modernist and patriotic vote of the left. "Half" of the nation which has traditionally supported the Labour Party but has little in common with the "new leftism" to which Labour is now prey.

Mr. Jenkins's candidature will do more than anything so far to establish the identity of the SDP, but this is only half its significance. Its impact on the continuing turmoil in the Labour Party will be no less important. Far too late, the Labour

moderates, in their fear of Mr. Benn, are trying with desperate remedies. Mr. Callaghan (who sat still and watched the Labour Party bit by bit being transformed into an organization fit for Mr. Benn to operate in) is now suggesting a kind of UDI for the Warrington Labour Party, under which if Mr. Benn were elected deputy leader, it might choose its own leader.

That is something that should have been proposed before the crucial 1979 conference, when it would have been possible to lead the PLP into a commitment to refuse to accept the election of a leader not of their own choosing. Now it is too late to turn the clock back on that principle—unless Labour splits into the Labour Party, the Conference and NEC, and the Labour Party of Parliament. And in that event, where can the Labour Party of Parliament go, except to the redoubt which the SDP have prepared for them?

For them, Warrington presents a dilemma. They must formally oppose Mr. Jenkins, which will be easier if Warrington chooses a moderate candidate. Yet in their hearts, Labour's remaining moderates must want him to win, if only to frighten the left against which they now belatedly offer resistance. How can they rationally argue against the SDP when doing what they think they timely attempt by drabs and drabs?



Roy Jenkins: risking it.

The fact is that for the duration of the Warrington campaign, the Labour moderates will be uncomfortable, honourary, unacknowledged social democrats, knowing that the SDP is saying what only their additive dependence on the Labour Party machine prevents them from saying, too.

Warrington will be the most important by-election in our post-war history—perhaps in this century. It will signal whether there is a reasonable prospect of a new party replacing Labour as Labour once replaced the Liberals, leaving a smaller, leftist group on the extreme of politics, still bearing Labour's name. To do this, the SDP must not rely on hoping to win Tory seats where it expects the Conservative vote to hold firm when the time comes. It must take seats from Labour in places (like Warrington) where the Liberal and dissident Tory votes can help make this possible.

To win, Mr. Jenkins will surely have to campaign heavily on the single issue that Labour has become a party of caucus-leftists whose instincts are inimical to true parliamentary democracy, to the Western alliance and to the claims of the individual citizen for personal liberty and responsibility. That, after all, is why the SDP broke with Labour once it was clear that the designed subservience of the parliamentary party to the party machine existed to change its whole political complexion.

The game-sticken barrage from the last ditch which Mr. Foot, Mr. Healey, Mr. Shore, Mr. Hattersley, and even Mr. Michael Cox (the usually silent Chief Whip) fired off last week-end only substantiates the case for which the SDP went into political business. At Warrington, the Labour moderates will be hard put to differentiate themselves credibly from the man who seeks to take this seat from them.

Is this Foot's final fling?

by Julian Haviland, Political Editor



Michael Foot: no trace.

before both the party and the uncommitted elector.

So Michael Foot's is a dismal inheritance, which has been crumbling even as he tries to gather it.

Some who sympathize blame his predecessor for going too soon, or too late; for causing the rupture in government between the party's political wing and the trade unions, and failing to repair it subsequently; for letting two successive annual conferences, repudiate almost every policy followed by Labour in government, and put the parliamentary party and its readers on indefinite trial.

Severer critics say that Foot, as Callaghan's deputy and accomplice, himself helped to engender his present troubles. In particular, at Bishops Cleeve last June, Foot supported Callaghan in agreeing, under pressure from trade union leaders, to abandon the historic right of MPs alone to elect the leader. They miscalculated: the single step back which they had intended became several steps. Once that ground was yielded, Michael Foot's period as leader was a mere formality.

At the Wembley conference last January, his favoured

compromise over the make-up of the college for electing the leader was repudiated; and at once the Social Democrats committed themselves to their damaging defection.

Michael Foot has failed these first two tests of the special skills—the skills of the leader—for which he has been chosen by the deciding votes of the parliamentary party's nervous centre.

These early reverses have made his leadership so far a token one. There is plenty of display: he has the energy and will to harangue the party rallies and march with the unemployed; and in Parliament the persistence to get under the Prime Minister's skin with some regularity.

But he knows, and last week admitted, that Labour is in no state to mount any sustained attack on the Government. The army is still divided. With re-election in full swing, it is not clear how any of the front-line troops will be allowed to re-enlist. Morale is poor.

Frustrated by their continuing weakness, Michael Foot and his Shadow Cabinet colleagues had by last week come to see Tony Benn as the major, perhaps the only, obstacle to their success.

To a man, they believed that Benn was carrying his campaign forward by traducing every one of them; that he meant to continue; and that victory for him would destroy the party's remaining cohesion. Last week's challenge to single combat changed everything. Whether it was an act of courage (as his admirers say) or a tactical mistake (as the Benn camp say) it was an act of unparalleled self-assertion which has started a reassessment of the leader's role. Here was the unlikely of leaders in some ways, with his hatred of discipline and his lifelong affinity with rebels,

galvanised by the anti-leadership of Tony Benn.

Perhaps he was desperate, perhaps attracted by the romanticism of putting his fate "unto the touch, to win or lose it all"; but he has not done now been the kind of romantic that stands before an oncoming train.

Could it be that Michael Foot wants at last to have the substance of the power for which he only reluctantly competed? The generalship is unorthodox. Foot's high command have not planned their next move forward, nor left any line of retreat.

It is hard to see how there can now be a truce between Foot's party and Benn's until one or other champion is routed; or how Foot can become more than a token leader until the Labour conference has somehow ratified his election.

If this is denied him, or if the Benn forces succeed in robbing MPs of any influence over the manifesto, as they well may, the party's allies think he may lose heart and go.

If the party rallies to him, it will still be several months before he can turn to his prime task, which the party's turmoil has prevented him from tackling, of trying to forge in Parliament a united team and programme to oppose the Government.

On many of the big questions—concerning the economy, defence, the Common Market—Michael Foot and the majority of his team are still at odds. The Benn faction has concealed these differences but only postponed their resolution. It has also engendered a certain comradeship in adversity, which may prove useful.

But the task which awaits him, if only his feeding party will let him put his hand to it, is formidable. His talent for it is still untested. And the day lifelong affinity with rebels,

The one issue that unites Iran

Behind the high walls of the closed British Embassy in Tehran, the 11 British diplomats listening to the gunfire outside have grown used to the tensions, sound effects and graffiti that must be endured to keep a foot in the Iranian door.

As supporters of President Bani-Sadr clashed with Islamic extremists, and Revolutionary Guards fired warning shots and teargas grenades, the diplomats could ponder the curious fact that Ulster is about the only major issue nowadays that puts the President and his fundamentalist opponents on the same side.

The President and his arch-enemies in the Government, the Revolutionary Guards and other official bodies now engaged in the most bitter round of their endless political struggle, all send messages of condolence and support recently to Belfast after the death of Bobby Sands, the IRA hunger striker.

To get their feelings home, an official blue and white street sign has been fixed to the rear wall of the embassy compound. It says, in Persian, Bobby Sands Street. Let any passer-by should be unaware of exactly who Bobby Sands is, the sign carries underneath the explanation: "militant Irish guerrilla".

It is a far cry from the days when the British were honoured with the naming of the adjacent Churchill Street.

The death of Sands and three other Ulster hunger strikers has become a hot topic in Iran, a new weapon with which to beat the British "imperialists".

The casual observer might be surprised at the wide range of Iranian opinion that believes the British "oppressors" should stop their "bullying"

in Northern Ireland. But then he is probably unaware that many Iranians also cling to the belief that their own present situation is an "imperialist" plot to oppress them.

Iranian officials, press and television have gone to town on "Ulster". Bobby Sands' heroic death, said the official Press news agency, "was a blow to British imperialism".

The state television recently broadcast a documentary on Ulster, presenting the IRA case in fulsome and sympathetic detail. The next day a strong but virtually outworn guerrilla group quoted Sinn Féin officials as condemning the Iranian regime for holding political prisoners. The TV and radio counter-attacked with an official Sinn Féin statement.

The beleaguered Englishman, pressed by ardent Iranians, is not devoid of a telling riposte. He can mention the fact that Iran also faces problems in outlying provinces, notably with ever-rebellious Kurdish tribesmen in the west.

Or he can more pointedly refer to hunger strikes on Tehran's own doorstep. Three supporters of President Bani-Sadr are reported to be on hunger strike after their arrest by Revolutionary Guards.

At least several of the Masjed an-Nasraniyya recently entered the sixth day of a hunger strike to attain unspecified rights. The newspaper *Islamic Revolution* said: "It should be mentioned that one died during the strike".

Tony Allaway

"Would you buy a Rembrandt for its canvas?" I asked.

An acquaintance remarked that, at £1,770, the Royal Oak stainless steel watch by Audemars Piguet was more expensive than most gold watches.

Which was perhaps missing the point. The value of the Royal Oak is more a

consequence of the way the metal has been used, the design reflecting its strength and character, than the material itself.

In any sphere of artistry and craftsmanship, as I pointed out to my friend, materials alone do not make a masterpiece.

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A plum BBC job goes to Joan Bakewell

Joan Bakewell has been confirmed as BBC-TV's first-ever arts correspondent. She starts work on July 1, in the current-affairs division. This includes *Nationwide*, *Newsnight* and *Newsweek* but, to begin with, Ms Bakewell will work only on *Newsnight*, a return to the late-night slot where she first became well-known in the Sixties.

Ms Bakewell hopes to combine the light frothy stuff, interviews, first nights, gossip, with more serious analysis and the politics of the arts.

The idea for the job arose out of her Arts UK programme last year, when she toured Britain exploring the state of music, painting and the theatre all around the country. It has taken a while to settle the details (BBC radio has an arts correspondent who half-expected the post), but the job has come just in time from Ms Bakewell's point of view. Her husband, Jack Emery, was associate director of the Old Vic until its recent closure after the Arts Council withdrew its support.

Objects for a *Wunderkammer*, which opened yesterday is a clever idea for an exhibition. *Wunderkammer*, to give them

THE TIMES DIARY

General Irida Khalife, director general of medical services for the Saudi Armed Forces, will be going to Newmarket with King Khalid today. Instead he will meet with Dr Gerard Vaughan, Minister of Health—and he can expect an especially warm greeting.

The Saudi Arabian Ministry of Health has come to the aid of the Royal College of Surgeons of Edinburgh with a £350,000 donation towards the college's ambitious plans to recreate a "Surgeons' Square" in the Scottish capital.

The old Surgeons' Square disappeared last century, but the college is now in the middle of a £1.5m development of the Georgian

their German plural, were predecessors of the modern museum, but galleries in which objects were not grouped, as they are now, in "sensible" categories, like paintings, sculpture, tapestries and so on, but in which everything was jumbled up.

Without doubt the most grisly object kept in one of these *Wunderkammer*s was the cap-harpichord, belonging to the Landgrave of Hesse-Cassel. This was a "musical" instrument, whose sound was obtained by pulling the tails of cats boxed up in a wooden case.

Running it close were the pictures of Giuseppe Arcimboldo, who once painted a portrait of Emperor Rudolf II of Prague consisting en-

tirely of fruits and vegetables (the Emperor like it).

The Colnaghi exhibition is exquisite rather than grisly, save for the "decomposing" bronze. But the most beautiful piece is also a curiosity. It is the Pax of the Medici, a gold and marble picture where the images of the Virgin and Child are actually formed by the veins of the marble itself. You have until June 30 to see it.

Today's meeting is an important one. United Medical Enterprises Ltd, a health group 70 per cent owned by the National Enterprise Board, acts as a consultant to the Ripdash Hospital, but its contract comes up for renewal this month. Let's hope that the General likes Dr Vaughan as much as he likes the Scots.

When M.M. ("Mollie") Kaye started to write her historical novel, *The Far Pavilion*, in 1964, she wasn't even a mother-in-law. By the time it was published in 1977 she was a grandmother twice over. The

reason she took 13 years to complete the book was that she contracted cancer of the lymphatic system.

But Mollie Kaye conquered her illness and *Pavilion* has sold five million copies. It has been so successful that an earlier historical romance, *Shadow of the Moon*, set in India, was re-issued, and today another new book, *Trade Winds*, is being published by the same publisher. *Trade Winds* is set in Zanzibar and Mrs Kaye remembers well how she came to write it. "I was sitting in Nairobi airport one morning in the 1950s and the *Winds of Change* came over the tarmac. I was passengers for flight 434, for Mombasa, Tanga, Pemba, Zanzibar, and Dar es Salaam. I had enough to take their seats."



Mr. Bann. From the Tory Party.

Such courtesy and such a string of romantic names. On the flight that morning she passed what looked like a peach-coloured cloud but turned out to be the early sun splashing the snows of Mount Kilimanjaro (now called Mount Kibo). In Zanzibar she stayed at the British Club and in the library she found a whole row of one-of-a-kind books about nineteenth-century Zanzibar. That's how it started.

Now she plans two children's books, which she has illustrated herself (*Jackanory*, the BBC TV programme, has bought one) and an autobiography. She has to hurry with that—"My memory is beginning to fade I'm sorry to say. But do put in that bit about my illness. My doctor is always saying that we only hear about the people who die of cancer. Not the people who beat it. It can be beaten."

England, Ireland 2, in a moment of self-doubt, I understand that Cardinal Thomas O'Flaherty recently

commented Cardinal Basil Hume on the morality of the morning of Cardinal Hume suggested they look at an essay, On Suicide, by his famous nemesis, David Hume, the Scottish philosopher.

Even with the Scot's heavenly luck, O'Flaherty was unable to grasp the fine point of the argument and there was a dispute about what the philosopher was really saying. To settle it, Basil Hume said: "When I die and go to heaven I will ask David what he thought of O'Flaherty's remark that a free-thinker might be in a better state than a Catholic. But what is his answer?"

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Peter Watson

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IRELAND GOES TO THE POLLS

Mr Haughey's governing Fianna Fail party has lost ground to its main opponent Fine Gael, led by Dr Garret FitzGerald, but there is ground to spare before it loses office — an overall majority of 17 in the previous Dail, which was an exceptionally wide majority by Irish standards. As the Republic goes to the polls today it looks like a close-run election.

The first concern of British observers has been that the campaign, coming at a time of particular difficulty in Northern Ireland, should not be swept along by anti-British passion or rabid republicanism that would still further unsettle opinion in the North; that the leaders of the major Irish parties should not be blown off their generally moderate courses in respect of partition and cross-border security; and that candidates who are front men for the Provisional IRA should not call the campaign tune nationally or even locally.

So far as all that goes the campaign has been quite as reassuring as could be expected. The fumes of the wine of nationalism did not render the voters insensible to their bread and butter, which normally determines the southern Irishman's non-ideological choice of government: on this occasion, prices (inflation runs at an annual rate of about 20 per cent), jobs (nearly 12 per cent of the registered work force has no job), and bounty for farmers (they have seen the purchasing power of their incomes fall by a half in three years).

If the Republic's corps of professional economists had had their way it would have been not bread and butter but bread and water. The timing of this otherwise inopportune election was dictated by the rapidly approaching necessity for government to regain control of the public finances. The balance of payments deficit is running towards a level equivalent to 13

per cent of the national product, and public borrowing towards a level equivalent to 18 per cent, while foreign indebtedness mounts monthly. If Dublin does not soon get a grip on these trends international financial institutions will force its hand.

For Mr Haughey on the hustings the world recession was the culprit, while his government was gallantly seeking to shield Irish industry from its worst effects and protect the "social benefit classes". Dr Garret FitzGerald had greater freedom to enlarge upon the gulf opening under their feet, but he too was inhibited by a 72-page policy for turning things round while promising something for everyone, including allowance for stay-at-home wives (an intrusion into the privacy of Irish family life — Mr Haughey).

With economic armageddon round the corner convulsions in the North took second place in the campaign. The impact of the nine H-block candidates and a handful of independents in full sympathy with them will be measured in the ballot-box. They certainly did not deflect others' electioneering to any considerable extent. Although Mr Haughey, with his controversial republican credentials and his claim to have broken through to new ground arm in arm with Mrs Thatcher, hoped to draw advantage from the "national issue", it was not placed in contention between the parties, or at least between their leaders. Fianna Fail, Fine Gael and Labour are at one over the hunger strikers in the Maze. All deplore the self-destruction, all would deny them formal political status, all condemn the British Government for not further relaxing the prison rules — an inflexibility, they claim, which alienates Irish Catholics and drives the two communities of Ulster apart. The party leaders are also at one.

EDGING TOWARDS PROTECTION

West Germany has reached an understanding with Japan on Japanese car exports to the federal republic, that they will not grow this year by more than 10 per cent over last year's figure of 257,000. Asked whether the new agreement did not fly in the face of Germany's anti-protectionist stand Count Otto Graf Lambsdorff, Germany's economic minister, replied that it "did go beyond the line a little". That piece of understatement has an ironic ring coming from the minister. It was he who four weeks ago in London berated the United States for entering into an agreement with Japan to curb car exports. America's curbs, he suggested, made Germany's task of defending free international trade even harder, since its EEC partners, some of which were obstructing imports of Japanese cars, could now invoke the American lapse in their defence.

By its action Germany has effectively ruined any chance that the European Economic Community might have had of working out a pan-European restraint agreement with the Japanese. The Japanese will argue, and with some merit, that

since some European countries have imposed unilateral restrictions — Italy, for example, only allows in 2,200 Japanese cars a year — and others, like Germany, have concluded bilateral agreements, Europe cannot possibly be regarded as a single market.

Protection comes in many guises and there will be many ardent European free-traders who will be pleased that this country is not to become simply another protectionist bloc. But will they accept the corollary, which is that increasingly, in the car industry at least, we are going to see a growing pattern of national protectionist policies?

Such policies will not necessarily continue to be of the essentially voluntary nature that we have seen up to now and of which Germany's is only the latest example. Britain has an informal arrangement with the Japanese motor industry which the British interpret to mean that Japan should limit its share of various vehicle markets in this country to around 10-11 per cent. But Japan sold 13,000 vans to this country in the first four months of this year — taking 25 per cent of that market. In the

in according the highest priority (formally) to the objective of a united Ireland, in insisting that it must be brought about by consent not by coercion, and in repudiating the means of violence.

There are interesting differences of emphasis between Mr Haughey's presentation to the electorate and Dr FitzGerald's. Mr Haughey in the course of his campaign stretched yet further the length of elastic which attaches his gloss on the Dublin-London talks to the gloss offered by Mrs Thatcher. "The problem of Northern Ireland" should be made the subject of a fundamental reconsideration by the two sovereign governments involved. That objective has been achieved. These talks Dr FitzGerald would continue, but he would not, he says, conceal their broad contents from the Irish people north or south. He accuses Mr Haughey of exaggerating their import and of gullibility in placing so much reliance on his relationship with Mrs Thatcher. "Even the Unionists of Northern Ireland have begun to learn that it is foolish to place too much reliance on Britain", and he criticizes him for failing to cultivate the good opinion and trust of Ulster Protestants.

The continuity that has marked Anglo-Irish relations since Mr Lynch recovered his poise after the worst of Ulster rioting in 1969 will survive this election. There is no marked preference on that score between Mr Haughey confirmed in power or a Fine Gael and Labour coalition led by Dr FitzGerald. There is one bad outcome that is now just possible: Fianna Fail dependent in the Dail on the support of one or two independent republican extremists. With Fianna Fail itself acrimoniously divided about flirtation with republican violence, that would be an unstable and perhaps dangerous result.

Quite apart from the crimes against persons and property that these youngsters perpetrate, their very presence on the streets, with their distinctive uniforms, haircuts and appearances, by which they are easily and immediately identified, is an affront to a civilized society and an outrage against public decency. The hideous obscenity of gang violence, however, is a crime against the community, like the elderly, who are least able to defend themselves, has come to be seen by the teenagers as almost glamorous.

It is not widely known that the community to tell its young, whatever their race or colour, that by choosing to display these trademarks of violence on their persons they will forfeit their status as citizens, and that they will incur the liability, as suspected persons, to be stopped, searched, questioned or detained if found out of doors and in public places at unreasonable hours, in numbers, or without legitimate business?

Britain, with its informal pact with the Japanese car makers, is not in the best position to criticize Germany for taking the protectionist road. But Britain at least has the justification that it needs a breathing space to restructure its badly wounded car industry. That Germany cannot claim, and by making remote the chances of achieving an EEC-Japanese pact, behind which the weaker European car industries could regroup, it has done its partners a disservice.

COOPERATION ACROSS THE RIO GRANDE

This week's meeting between President Reagan and President Lopez Portillo of Mexico gave a good illustration of the changed relationship between their two countries. Until quite recently the United States paid very little attention to its southern neighbour, while the Mexicans felt powerless and often resentful in the face of American dominance. But since the discovery of its huge oil reserves Mexico has become an increasingly important actor on the international scene, particularly in the Caribbean region, and this has been recognized in Washington. It was significant that Mr Reagan made a point of meeting President Lopez Portillo even before his inauguration, and this week he went out of his way to show the Mexican President that he was a respected visitor.

There was no chance that they would be able to resolve Mexican-American differences, which go deep, in a day or two of talks. There are differences which arise from their common border, and the enormous disparity of wealth between the two countries — the issue of illegal Mexican immigrants into the United States, for instance, and Mexico's need for better access to the American market for its exports. There are also radically different approaches to Cuba, with which Mexico has good relations, and to the current turmoil in Central

America. Mexico has cultivated good relations with the revolutionary government in Nicaragua, of which the Reagan Administration is profoundly suspicious, and has been sharply critical of the Administration's policies towards El Salvador.

But though these differences were discussed, and are to be discussed further at a lower level, both men were anxious to improve relations by focusing on possible areas of cooperation. And at the personal level Mr Reagan succeeded in getting on with Señor Lopez Portillo in a way that Mr Carter never achieved — ironically, in view of the fact that Mr Carter's general policies towards Latin America were far more congenial to the Mexicans than Mr Reagan's.

The upshot of that Señor Lopez Portillo has agreed in principle to take part in a long-term plan to provide aid to Central America — a project that the Reagan Administration is now beginning to prepare in an attempt to curb Cuban influence in the region. On his side, Mr Reagan has agreed to attend a summit meeting in Mexico in October at which the issue of North-South economic relations will be discussed though he made it a condition that President Castro should not be there too.

There is in fact every reason for the two countries to make

an effort to put their relations on a better level. Mexico is now one of the United States' main suppliers of oil — and a much nearer and more stable one than Saudi Arabia, the Gulf — and there is a heavy volume of trade between them. Externally, neither of them is happy about the upheavals in Central America and the prospect that Cuba may acquire more influence there and in the Caribbean area generally. It is just that Mexico reacts to the trend differently, by taking great trouble to keep on good terms with the revolutionary governments.

So far, at least, the Reagan Administration has taken an extraordinarily simplistic view of the troubles in the region, blaming them solely on Cuban and Soviet intervention when in fact they are very largely the product of social, political and economic conditions in the various countries. Mexico, which for historical reasons is critical of American attempts to intervene, is well placed to give Washington a more balanced view of the real situation; and it has already shown the sort of action which is needed by its agreement with Venezuela to provide oil on preferential terms to a number of Caribbean countries. Together, the two countries can do much to help the countries of the region and keep them stable.

Long may the cow parsley live. (Long enough it's a nuisance in my garden.) Yours in the truth, ADRIAN KENNEDY, Windsor Hill, 2 Kings Avenue, Eastbourne, East Sussex. June 8.

Verge of recovery

From Mr Adrian Kennedy
Sir, Mr McFarlane's assumption (June 8) that cow parsley makes "driving in the country dangerous" is false.
It is drivers' incompetence, carelessness, and impatience that makes motoring dangerous (for both driver and pedestrian).

Cow parsley, "bad" roads, "dangerous" corners, and trees that "unhappily" motorists do not cause accidents — drivers do.
Our countryside has been de-spoiled enough already and is fast losing its remaining beauty and rural atmosphere because of the carelessness of motorists and others who wish to cut down everything that gets in their way when they want to go faster than is necessary.

Long may the cow parsley live. (Long enough it's a nuisance in my garden.) Yours in the truth, ADRIAN KENNEDY, Windsor Hill, 2 Kings Avenue, Eastbourne, East Sussex. June 8.

Unknowing cuts in council grants

From the Leader of Newark District Council

Sir, The Secretary of State for the Environment, Mr Michael Heseltine, has announced that "high-spending" councils are to have their rate support grant reduced in order to curb their tendency to impose "unreasonable" burdens on their ratepayers. Because Newark District Council has increased its current expenditure compared with the Government's arbitrarily chosen 1978-79 base it is to be penalised to the extent of £145,000 unless it now makes cuts in its planned spending.

Our neighbours, Rushcliffe Borough Council, however, are to be fully protected from penalties because they have reduced their spending this year as requested by the Government. Yet the facts are that this year we are planning to spend £28.60 per head of population whereas Rushcliffe have a higher local rate as it seems that we are to be penalised not because we are high spenders, since by comparison with others we are demonstrably not, but because we have spent too little on the rate.

It is not Mr Heseltine who is turning the world upside down, and it is little wonder that local authorities are baffled by his antics. Yours faithfully, MICHAEL COWAN, Newark District Council, Kelham Hall, Newark, Nottinghamshire. June 8.

Gang violence
From Mr A. K. Qureshi
Sir, You report today (June 3) on the tragic deaths of Mr Terence May in London and Mr Douglas Brunt in Birmingham from indiscriminate violence by gangs of youths. I am a victim of this violence. I was recently, from which I escaped with only minor injuries due to the timely arrival of a neighbour, I find every such incident disturbing.

Quite apart from the crimes against persons and property that these youngsters perpetrate, their very presence on the streets, with their distinctive uniforms, haircuts and appearances, by which they are easily and immediately identified, is an affront to a civilized society and an outrage against public decency. The hideous obscenity of gang violence, however, is a crime against the community, like the elderly, who are least able to defend themselves, has come to be seen by the teenagers as almost glamorous.

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Britain, with its informal pact with the Japanese car makers, is not in the best position to criticize Germany for taking the protectionist road. But Britain at least has the justification that it needs a breathing space to restructure its badly wounded car industry. That Germany cannot claim, and by making remote the chances of achieving an EEC-Japanese pact, behind which the weaker European car industries could regroup, it has done its partners a disservice.

A. KALEEM QURESHI, 64 Lewin Road, Streatham, SW16. June 3.

European unity

From Mr Edmund Neville-Rolfe

Sir, Mr T. B. Martin (June 9) suggests that future historians will have to draw up a list of events that led to the birth of European unity. Within the next five years the 30-year rule will help to shed more light on the British Government's attitude and action in the 1950s. The Conference whose purpose was to "re-launch Europe" after the failure of the Six and the United Kingdom to set up a European Defence Community, was a long-standing difference of opinion with the Six.

The point of view of the British had been clearly seen during the Green Pool negotiations of 1952-54: they wanted no more than a continuation of the existing policies within the framework of the OEEC (Organisation for European Economic Cooperation). The report of the Spaak Committee, appointed to study the possibility of a treaty establishing an Economic Community, concluded unequivocally that "it is inconceivable that any Common Market should be established in Europe which did not include the United Kingdom". It is hardly surprising therefore that the Eden Government had withdrawn from the committee several months earlier as soon as it was clear that the Six had in mind an economic organisation which would be quite separate from OEEC.

Had the British not shied away from the idea of a common agricultural policy, and had they gone on to take part in negotiations for a treaty, the CAP that emerged would still, of course, have been for the interests of the 15 million persons then employed in agriculture in a Community of seven. Nevertheless, it might have taken a less extremely protectionist form, and almost certainly a less dirigiste one.

At the same time, the treaty might have had written into it policies that took more positive account of the need for economic adjustments within industry as well as agriculture, and dealt with urban decay as well as rural backwardness. Whether the Rome Treaty would in those circumstances have protected British interests sufficiently to satisfy those who would now like the United Kingdom to withdraw from the Community is also of course a matter for speculation. Yours faithfully, EDMUND NEVILLE-ROLFE, Bureau Européen de Recherches SA, Rue Stevin 216, 1040 Bruxelles. June 8.

Freedom of choice in education

From the Chairman of the Independent Schools' Joint Council Advisory Committee

Sir, The national executive of the Labour Party has accepted recommendations which are designed to lead to the destruction of independent education in this country. It is to be guerrilla warfare followed by legislation which will make it illegal to charge fees for private education.

We may at some time have to endure the guerrilla warfare — we will tighten our belts and survive — but we shall not be able to accept legislation which will make this country the only country in the free world in which it is illegal to run a private school and charge for the services offered.

It may be difficult for some politicians to understand that the concern is not just to preserve our schools, although we would regard the destruction of some of the finest academic institutions in the world as being an act of vandalism and irreversibility. An attack on independent education would pose a threat to both academic freedom and individual freedom which we could not accept.

One shall defend these freedoms with as much vigour as trade union leaders would show if at any time it was proposed to abolish the right of their institutions to exist. We shall be supported by the majority of people in this country — every single test of opinion has shown that most people would be opposed to the abolition of independent education; whatever the arguments about the schools as such may be.

We shall be supported, too, by the Declaration of Human Rights and, more specifically, by the completely unambiguous statement in subsection 3 of article 13 of the United Nations Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights, signed in

1976 by the British Government: "The state's parties to the present covenant undertake to have respect for the liberty of parents... to choose for their children schools other than those established by the public authorities... and to ensure the religious and moral education of their children in conformity with their own convictions."

Nothing could be clearer than this: "schools other than those maintained by the public authorities".

It is important to make clear, at this stage, that we can never accept that the state should have complete control of all primary and secondary education; that the responsibility for the upbringing of children should pass from the parents to the state; that the child should be the mere creature of the state; that teachers at any level should be denied the established academic freedom to practise, if they so wish, free from the control of the state. It is highly dangerous to assume that all truth is revealed only to those who operate in the field of politics.

No action by Government will stop parents from ensuring that their children are educated in the way that they wish, and nothing will stop teachers from exercising a right practised in all the free countries of the world. Will the Labour Party, any Labour Party, not find it objectionable to enforce legislation which will send to prison respectable citizens who seek to exercise what they believe to be their essential individual rights?

If the Labour Party will not find it objectionable, I am certain that the majority of the people of this country would.

Yours faithfully, FRANK FISHER, New Barn, 14 Arlington Road, Yarnston, Oxford.

Seat-belt legislation

From Dr G. M. Mackay

Sir, Perhaps I might comment on a number of the points raised by Sir Ronald Bell, MP (June 10), concerning the compulsory use of seat belts. There is one serious argument against compulsory use of seat belts, being debated in the Lords, and that is a philosophical one stated ably by Sir Ronald: it is that the compulsory use of belts is a denial of freedom to choose which all car occupants should have.

I believe that driving and the use of public roads is a privilege and not a fundamental right, that in exchange for the use of such public facilities, we already accept regulations on our freedom of action (such as driving on the left and stopping at red lights) and the compulsory use of seat belts is in no way a new principle to be resisted.

The arguments against compulsory seat belt use are areas of fact, and here Sir Ronald is in error. First, surveys suggest that a substantial majority of the driving public favours such legislation, and thus the use of seat belts is a fact of fact, and here Sir Ronald is in error. First, surveys suggest that a substantial majority of the driving public favours such legislation, and thus the use of seat belts is a fact of fact, and here Sir Ronald is in error.

Second, although there are occasional cases where seat belts may have made matters worse, such cases are extremely rare. In fact, below the one in 1,000 level, but the benefits are that a 100 per cent seat-belt use reduces the number of fatal and serious casualties by at least 50 per cent. The use of seat belts is a fact of fact, and here Sir Ronald is in error. First, surveys suggest that a substantial majority of the driving public favours such legislation, and thus the use of seat belts is a fact of fact, and here Sir Ronald is in error.

Third, Sir Ronald, dismisses the experience with seat-belt legislation by an easy reference to the oil crisis and an alleged similar decline in English casualties over the same period. In reality the specific effect of the Australian legislation has been carefully monitored and the factors such as vehicle mileage, changes in pedestrian and motor-cyclist casualties, actual conformity to the legislation and timing

of seat belts in cars have all been accounted for. Compulsory use of seat belts stands out as the most effective piece of public health legislation which has been introduced in this country, and, translated to this country, would save at least 600 lives and 8,000 serious casualties annually.

As an authority, Sir Ronald quotes a paper by Mr John Adams. This claims that countries without seat belt laws have had greater reductions in casualties than countries which have such laws. Mr Adams' analysis is seriously flawed in its method, factually incorrect in several instances, and the conclusions drawn do not follow from the data analysed. It is unrealistic to expect simple comparisons of all classes of road deaths together (pedestrian and motor cyclists as well as car occupants) between different countries over a period of a decade to show the seat belt effect as a dominant influence. Such a factor remains buried under all the other uncontrolled variables in such an analysis.

Finally, Sir Ronald introduces the notion that driving behaviour changes for the worse as soon as a seat-belt law is introduced. Recent research in both Canada and Australia has shown this hypothesis to be wrong. In fact, the use of seat belts in reality drive better than those who break the law.

Accident statistics are often not amenable to simple interpretations. However, the use of seat belts legislation has been well established, in a great number of specific studies. Twenty-six countries so far have enacted such legislation without a noticeable deterioration in the country would be around £150m annually; in any field other than driving we would be asking why we have not introduced such a powerful measure for saving much earlier.

Yours faithfully, G. M. MACKAY, Head of Accident Research Unit, University of Birmingham, Birmingham 15. June 10.

Civil Service dispute

From Mr G. W. Marshall

Sir, Following the inflexibility of the Cabinet last week and press reports at the weekend about "unhappiness" in the Civil Service, what is at stake is no longer, and never really was, just whether the increased pay of civil servants should be 7 per cent or, say, 8.5 per cent. The question is whether the Civil Service the country will have.

Ministers in and out of government have often enough preached to trade unionists the virtues of avoiding industrial disputes by reaching agreements, sticking to them and using arbitration to settle any differences. The Conservative Government has advocated this as strongly as any, but it is they who have broken their own agreement with civil servants, failed to put anything in its place and refused arbitration.

Its justification of an increase of 18 per cent to MPs on the grounds that 12 per cent relates to a deferred award seems particularly hollow and hypocritical. Senior civil servants are still waiting in vain for implementation of the salaries

recommended following pay research in 1980; these were restricted in the general settlement for that year after the direct intervention of the Prime Minister. Government White Papers and even cabinet decisions cannot continue to command the loyalty and respect of its employees.

We would do well to ponder that these old-fashioned qualities of honour, fairness, loyalty and respect have given us a non-political Civil Service which for all its faults, is generally the best equipped and probably still the finest in the world. It is the quality of that service which is now at risk. Will a service staffed either by disaffected ministers or underpaid civil servants really be an improvement?

The Government will, no doubt, get the Civil Service it deserves. The fundamental question is whether the country can afford to let it.

Yours faithfully, G. W. MARSHALL, Acting General Secretary, Association of First Division Civil Servants, 17 Northumberland Avenue, WC2. June 9.

Defence review

From Rear-Admiral C. C. H. Dunlop

Sir, In the many arguments surrounding the current defence review there are two points that do not seem to have been fully brought out. First is that the history of the conflict shows that the only certainty is that it is the unexpected that will happen. The Boer War was to be a limited punitive action against some rebellious farmers; the 1914-18 war was to be over by the first Christmas; no one envisaged the British being driven from the continent of Europe in 1940, surviving, and then coming back with its great allies, to win.

It appears that too much consideration is being given to precise assumptions; for example, that war would take the form of a very quick, all-decisive campaign on the western front, through Russia was there who argue that little of no surface Navy is required for ensuring seaborne reinforcement.

If there are going to be "scenarios", let us try to look at the possibilities through Russian was there who argue that little of no surface Navy is required for ensuring seaborne reinforcement. Yours faithfully, C. C. H. DUNLOP, Chancery Farm, Sand Lane, Frinton-on-Sea, Essex. June 5.

certainty of triggering off the nuclear holocaust and so the destruction of their motherland; can we see them attacking by air the actual territory of this country, or one of our NATO allies, carrying out a nuclear strike on the front and back of a great front line attack?

Surely, to the Russians, by far the "safest" and most controllable form of military action against NATO would be at sea, in isolation of war on land, just as actually happened from September, 1939, to early April, 1940.

Here the Russians could, unless adequate NATO naval defence was available, win total victory without anything like the same risks of the nuclear destruction of their motherland because no one's territory would be directly hit. The advent of weapons of mass destruction seems to me to make this scenario the most likely one of all.

Jury's verdict in PC Olds case

From Mr C. H. W. Gane

Sir, It is rapidly becoming clear that criticism of the jury's verdict in respect of the wounding of PC Olds (report, June 6) has been misplaced. They do indeed appear to have approached their task in a responsible and thoughtful manner. (To his further credit, PC Olds has refused to join in the criticism of that verdict.) Can the same be said, however, of the presiding judge?

The offence of wounding with intent under section 18 of the Offences Against the Person Act 1861 carries a maximum sentence of life imprisonment. But the normal order of sentences for offences under that section is up to 15 years. On more than one occasion the Court of Appeal has indicated that more severe sentences are not appropriate for the offence of wounding with intent.

Mr Justice Skinner has passed a sentence appropriate to murder (which was not committed) or attempted murder (which the jury, by their verdict, negated). What, in effect, has been achieved by the life sentence, is a replacement of the jury's assessment of the defendant's criminality by the judge's assessment. If this is the case, does it not constitute yet another attack on the jury, albeit less obvious and more insidious than that of the other critics?

Yours sincerely, CHRISTOPHER H. W. GANE, University of Lancaster (Department of Law), Gillow House, Bailrigg, Lancaster.

Bonded labour

From Mr R. P. H. Davies

Sir, Your Delhi correspondent's article on bonded labour in yesterday's Times (June 3) was welcome evidence of an awakening public interest in this important topic. Perhaps the closest modern equivalent on a large scale to the chattel slavery which now exists only in relatively small, though still important, pockets.

Although the phenomenon of bonded labour is by no means confined to India, the sheer size of the subcontinent naturally ensures that the numbers involved are proportionately great. At the same time, it is in India that serious efforts are being made to understand and to abolish the practice: the recent conference in Delhi organized jointly by the National Council for Civil Liberties and the Gandhi Peace Foundation is a good example of the attention which is now being focused on the problem by influential academics and others.

There are those who believe that this service will outlast the system in 1975 contributed at least as much to her temporary downfall as Sanjay Gandhi's over-enthusiasm for sterilization. It is to be hoped that this service will not deter her from attempting once more to eradicate a practice which is deeply embedded in the rural society of India. The causes are various and cannot easily be separated, from other elements in India's traditional way of life: these include caste, the dowry system and the large family as well as the pressures of poverty and ill health on the rural population of agriculture and manufacturing.

The Anti-Slavery Society has for many years been engaged in exposing the prevalence of debt bondage and bonded labour generally in India, China, South America and in Africa as well as in India and other Asian countries and we have already decided to make it one of our major priority themes during the next few years. The collaboration of the press in coming to grips with the problem is of course vital and, while welcoming the present report from Delhi, I dare to hope that your correspondents elsewhere will keep readers informed of bonded labour conditions on other continents.

Yours faithfully, R. P. H. DAVIES, Secretary, The Anti-Slavery Society, 189 Brixton Road, SW9. June 4.

Rara avis

From Mr David Ross

Sir, Mr Bickford (June 9) is wrong. The species *Twitcher* is fully documented in Bill Oddie's Little Black Book, recently published. The full definition occupies pp 23-27 but in essence is summed up in the following: "If this kind of bird gets to hear that a bird has been sighted in a particular area, he is so wracked with nervous anticipation (that he might see it) or trepidation (that he might miss it) that he literally twitches with excitement of it all."

Yours faithfully, DAVID ROSS, 2 The Grange, Harley Wintney, Hampshire. June 9.

Carriage trade

From Mrs Margaret J. Herxhey

Sir, When I was in the sixth form at school a representative of *The Times* came to address us. In answer to the question, why did *The Times* not carry news on the front and back outside pages, he replied that it was necessary for lesser newspapers to do so, as their readers were second-class railway travellers who had to stand in the train and only had room to rotate their papers from front to back.

Times readers, by contrast, travelled first class and had the space to open their newspapers fully to read them. He illustrated this with an amusing, if patronizing, dumbshow, culminating in both him and the newspaper revolving like teetotums.

Twenty years later, I observe your new layout and wonder whether this is a reflection on the declining economic status of your readers or whether it is more than coincidence that it coincided with the withdrawal of British Railways' first-class service on many cross-country routes.

Yours faithfully, MARGARET HERXHEY, 97 Frognal Way, NW3. June 9.

The cost of
sterling's
slide, page 23

Business News

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Hard times hit
the gaming
tables, page 23

Stock markets
FT Ind 542.3 down 3.3
FT Gilts 66.19 up 0.38

Sterling
\$1.9715 up 31.0 pts
Index 95.0 up 0.4

Dollar
Index 108.5 down 1.0
DM 2.3682 down 328 pts

Gold
\$465.50 up \$9

Money
3 mth sterling 12 1/2-12 3/4
6 mth Euro 5.17-5.18
3 mth Euro 5.16-5.17

IN BRIEF

Westland cash for helicopter

Economies at the Ministry of Defence have forced Westland Aircraft to agree to contribute £2.75m to the first stage of the development of the EH 101 helicopter.

Westland announced with its interim figures yesterday that it had agreed to the payments in nine monthly tranches once the contract started.

Lord Aldington, Westland's chairman, also reported that the amount of private money going into the development of the WG 30 helicopter was increasing.

The Ministry is likely to decide within the next month whether it is to go ahead with the EH 101 contract, which involves a partnership between Westland and the Italian Agusta company.

The EH 101 is the replacement for the Sea King helicopter.

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Collins bid 'request'

News International yesterday said its 20th share bid (for William Collins) was made at the Collins family's request after News International bought a block of shares from the family's members. NI said in its offer document that it would be content to remain Collins' largest shareholder with the 33.3 per cent of the ordinary voting capital it now owns.

OECD price rise

Consumer prices rose by 1 per cent in April in the 24 member countries of the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development, bringing the increase over 12 months down to 10.6 per cent. Japan has the lowest inflation rate at 5.2 per cent, less than half the OECD average.

Coke decision soon

The Government is expected to make an announcement on the funding of coke supplies to Britain's troubled iron foundry industry before the end of the month. The 600 foundry companies are pressing for subsidies to bring them into line with their European rivals.

BSC jobs cut

The British Steel Corporation has announced more than 120 redundancies at two of its plants in Sheffield. Unley Park Works, which loses 82 jobs and Stockbridge, where 40 jobs will be lost, make savings for motorcar manufacturers.

Nigerian oil output

Nigerian oil output fell in March by 10 per cent compared with February and by about 13.4 per cent compared with March 1980.

Loan for Russia

The Soviet Union has signed agreements on loans totalling 205,800m yen (£474.5m) from Japan's semi-official Export Bank and about 20 commercial banks for Siberian coal and timber development projects.

US tin compromise

The United States would agree to an International Tin Council buffer stock of 50,000 metric tons, 5,000 tons lower than it earlier insisted, if there is agreement on other issues, says Michael Smith, the American Trade Ambassador said in Geneva.

Tobacco duties

Tobacco duties are expected to bring in 14.5 per cent more to the Government this year totalling an estimated £3.22bn, according to the Treasury.

£13m Shell plant

Shell's Belgian subsidiary is to set up a £13m plant at Ghent to manufacture catalyst carriers. The new plant will have a capacity of 2,260 tonnes a year and will come on stream at the end of 1982.

Wall Street lower

The Dow Jones industrial average closed 0.56 point down to 993.88. The S&P 500 was 1.5460. The £ was \$1.97535.

Keep down the lending rate Beckett says

By Peter Hill

The Government was urged yesterday not to respond to sterling's recent fall on foreign exchange markets by raising the minimum lending rate.

Sir Terence Beckett, director-general of the Confederation of British Industry, said a further increase in MLR would be a bitter pill for industry after all that it had swallowed in the past two years.

Speaking in London—as the pound again strengthened—Sir Beckett said that prospects for business and the economy were, on balance, brighter. The overvalued pound, he said, had inflicted a heavy toll on industry.

The truth is that the level from which the pound has eased—now plunged or plummeted as some of the headlines have declared—was ridiculously high. Even today the level is still very high.

Although it has fallen against the United States dollar, the pound's trade-weighted average value, which mattered much more, had dropped by only 8 per cent since the first quarter of this year.

"We have consistently argued during this past year that the high value of the pound has

been increasing industry's problems. And we have consistently urged the Government to create the freeth off the exchange rate. This has now largely happened," Sir Terence said.

Speaking at the annual lunch of the Press Association, Sir Terence said there was no reason for the CBI to alter its view that a 10 per cent fall in the value of the pound was compatible with reducing inflation, so long as pay settlements were kept under control and industry's costs were not increased.

In a wide-ranging speech, Sir Terence attacked the Labour Party's proposals to take Britain out of the European Economic Community, which now accounts for 43 per cent of United Kingdom trade, and underlined industry's growing concern about the trade imbalance with Japan.

Voluntary restraint agreements with the Japanese were not enough, Japan had to agree to open up her market to British and European exports, and the Government had to ensure that Japanese investment in Britain did not become a Trojan horse.

Economic Notebook and Business Diary, page 23

Eagle Star continues move against Allianz

By Ronald Pullen

Eagle Star is planning to take its campaign against Allianz Versicherung's shareholding in the group to the regulatory authorities in Britain and Europe.

This follows last week's dawn raid and subsequent tender offer which has left Allianz, West Germany's leading insurance group, with a 28.1 per cent interest in Eagle Star.

Responding to remarks from Allianz that it would be seeking an early meeting with the Eagle Star board to discuss co-operation in both insurance and investment activities, Sir Denis Mountain, Eagle Star's chairman, said that the company would be looking for support from the authorities to prevent Allianz "using the state's co-operation in both insurance and investment activities."

Eagle Star intends writing to the Office of Fair Trading in Britain, the German Kartell Office and the European Commission in Brussels asking for their views on the state.

Mr Anthony Ratcliff, Eagle Star's chief general manager, said: "Our main concern is to ensure we are in a situation where our commercial independence cannot be influenced by a minority shareholder."

Financial Editor, page 23

Cocoa deal to benefit Ivory Coast

By Our Commodities Correspondent

In a further attempt to persuade the Ivory Coast to join the troubled International Cocoa Agreement, economists at the International Cocoa Organisation said yesterday that the agreement would raise the collective earnings of members by about \$1,000m in 1981-2.

A report by the economists says that the Ivory Coast, which normally accounts for about a quarter of world's cocoa exports, would itself gain an extra \$265m from the agreement.

The calculations are based on the assumptions that the 1981-2 world crop will be similar to the current season's 1.6m tonnes, and that prices will not fall below 80 cents a pound. The agreement is designed to support prices at 110 cents a pound once they reach that level.

The Ivory Coast has refused to sign the agreement because it believes the intervention level is too low. Two leading consumers, the United States and Germany, have also declined to join. But Dr Kurt Waldheim, the United Nations Secretary General, is expected to convene a meeting at the end of June of countries who want to go ahead with the agreement.

While the future of the cocoa agreement remains in doubt, that of the sixth tin agreement, under discussion in Geneva, looked brighter yesterday. The United States made new proposals that would allow the buffer stock manager to borrow money against the security of governments' commitments to contribute to the fund.

Several thousand workers in the steel industry are pinning their hopes of keeping their jobs on the revolutionary government in Iran.

The supervisory board of Krupp Stahl, which is considering management plans to cut the workforce by up to 5,000, has to approve all major decisions. It contains an equal number of shareholder and employee representatives, plus one "neutral man" who would cast the decisive vote in case of deadlock.

But today it appeared that one of the shareholder representatives, Mahmud Ahmed Sadeh-Herawi, of Tehran, would vote against the planned redundancies. Mr Sadeh-Herawi is Ayatollah Khomeini's man on the Krupp board. He is the Iranian industry Minister and represents the 25 per cent of Krupp Stahl owned by the Islamic Republic of Iran.

He was sold to the Iranian government in the mid-1970s when Iran was keen to spend its oil wealth on buying western industrial expertise.

Last month when the management's plans were first put forward, Mr Sadeh-Herawi assumed the other shareholder representatives by objecting to the redundancy proposals and asking for more time to consider them.

Dollar hit by fear of US oil boycott by Arabs

By Frances Williams

The dollar fell sharply against all leading currencies on foreign exchange markets yesterday as interest rates tumbled and fears grew of Arab retaliation against the United States after Israel's bombing of Iraq's main nuclear reactor.

The dollar plunged by more than 34 pence against a generally stronger Deutsche mark to DM2.3682 at the end of London trading. Its trade-weighted index against a basket of currencies dropped 1.0 to 108.5 (average 1975=100), reflecting big losses against such currencies as sterling, the Swiss franc and the Japanese yen.

The pound gained 3.10 cents on the dollar, closing in London at \$1.9715. Its trade-weighted index rose 0.4 to 95.0 with sterling stronger against most continental currencies.

The dollar plummeted in American and Far East markets overnight on news that Kuwaiti MPs had called for an Arab oil boycott of the United States in the wake of the Israeli reactor.

A modest recovery around midday in Europe was quickly reversed by falling American interest rates, which gave rise to speculation that rates have peaked for the time being.

Chenier Bank cut its broker loan rate to 19 1/2 from 20 1/2 per cent and smaller banks cut their prime rates to 19 1/2 from 20 per cent. Most banks remain at 20 per cent.

The widely-watched Federal Reserve opened yesterday in New York at 1 1/4 per cent, down 3 per cent from Tuesday's close, and fell further to 1 1/4 per cent. This was taken as a clear indication of lower rates and deposit rates dropped sharply. Three-month deposits slumped by nearly 2 percentage points to 16 1/2 per cent.

London interest rates were generally easier and dealers do not expect any rise in minimum lending rate today.

The dollar's weakness and easier American interest rates helped gold, which rose by \$3 to \$465.50 an ounce.

The society maintains that

Islamic business received its biggest encouragement to date yesterday when Prince Mohamed al-Faisal al-Saud, a member of the Saudi royal family, announced in Geneva the foundation of the Dar al-Islam or House of Islamic Funds, to be capitalised at \$1,000m (£515m).

Although the new company is a trust registered in the Bahamas—administered by another company set up under the laws of the Cayman Islands—it will operate according to Islamic principles, the most important of which is the prohibition on "riba" or usury.

Financial Editor, page 23

\$1,000m Islamic business fund

By Michael Frost

Prince Faisal, the first Saudi prince to graduate from an American university, has campaigned for the revival of Islamic financial principles for many years. He has supported the establishment of Islamic banks in several Muslim countries.

The aims of the DMI are described as "Islamic investment, Islamic solidarity and Islamic banking operations and other trading and commercial activities conducted in accordance with Islamic principles."

Speaking at a news conference, Prince Faisal said that the investment priority would be Muslim countries, followed by other Third World nations. Investment in developed countries was not a priority.

So far DMI has raised \$250m from wealthy individuals in the Muslim world. The rest of the capital will be raised by a public offering in Muslim countries. The first investment will be \$3m for the supply of agricultural machinery to the Damazina project in the Sudan.

Prince Faisal stressed that the new company would be commercial, "essentially a partnership between money and work, a partnership limited in time and function."

The Islamic Republic of Iran has announced plans to cut 5,000 jobs in the steel industry.

Solidarity of the Ayatollah's man

From Peter Norman, Bonn, June 10

Mr Hassan Sarv, of the Iranian Embassy in Bonn, explained why the minister had cast his vote with the workers. "The Islamic revolution in Iran is against dismissing workers," he said. "It is the Islamic belief that work is necessary for the development of mankind, without work the personality cannot develop."

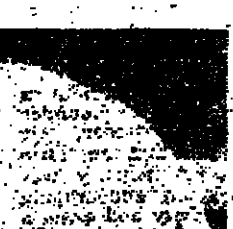
A Krupp spokesman declined to comment on the reports of the Iranian and said the proposed dismissals although he conceded that the outcome of the board meeting was awaited with more than usual interest.

Mr Sadeh-Herawi's opposition to the redundancies is thought to be the first instance of a representative of the Iranian revolutionary government intervening in a company's affairs. It could set an interesting precedent for, on his buying spree, the Shah also bought stakes of more than 25 per cent in the Krupp parent company and in Deutsche Babcock, which are still held by the government in Iran.

The rationalisation programme proposed by the management is intended to offset serious financial losses caused by the crisis in the West European steel industry. Last month Krupp Stahl reported a catastrophic financial quarter in 1980 and said that this adverse trend has continued into the early part of this year.

MPs sceptical about steel plan

By Our Industrial Editor



Sir Donald Kaberry: "I hope we are proved wrong."

Scepticism about the British Steel Corporation's latest survival plan was sounded yesterday by an all-party committee of MPs. They gave warning that failure to meet ambitious targets could lead to further demands for Government aid or draconian measures to reduce losses.

In its report into British Steel's corporate plan, which will be reviewed by Mr Ian MacGregor, its chairman, next month, the Industry and Trade Committee said: "In the absence of any contingency element within the external financing limit, there is a clear possibility that if the ambitious targets of the plan are not met, either the external financing limit of £730m will be insufficient or the corporation will need to take draconian measures to contain its operating losses."

Sir Donald Kaberry MP (Con, Leeds NW), the committee's chairman, said yesterday: "I hope we are proved wrong by our scepticism about the optimism in the plan."

Although sceptical in tone, the committee's report, which it regards as an interim study, largely endorses the measures taken by the steel chairman to rationalise the BSC.

"We have no evidence of any practicable alternative to this plan for the survival of BSC. We reluctantly conclude that this heavy demand on the public purse must be accepted for a further year," the MPs said.

"There is a general recognition that the industry is now at the brink of a precipice. But the dynamism of the present chairman, and the readiness of the workforce to cooperate in dramatic changes in working practices leading to substantial improvements in productivity may mean that the present plans, optimistic as they are, will succeed where many earlier ones have failed," the committee said.

Early next month, the corporation will formally confirm its plan for the next financial year of some £660m, in which its external financing limit was increased from an original £450m to £1,121m. Later, Mr MacGregor will advise ministers of how close BSC is to remaining within its target loss for this financial year set at £318m.

This year's financing limit of £730m will embrace the cost of further closures and redundancies, working capital and capital investment.

Mr MacGregor will discuss the achievement of targets set in the plan later next month with Sir Keith Joseph, Secretary of State for Industry. But steel industry unions remain worried that further closures "may be implemented."

In its report the committee emphasized the need for effective consultation before decisions were taken, and urged the Government to "impress on European governments the need for capacity reductions by other steel producers, warning that the United Kingdom industry has already borne more than its share of cutbacks."

The committee, which accepted the importance to the BSC of the new regime of voluntary productivity improvements among European steel producers designed to eliminate surplus capacity and lift prices by 15 to 20 per cent, also urged ministers to press for the elimination of all subsidies to the European steel industry.

Fourth report of the Industry and Trade Committee: House of Commons Paper 336-I, HMSO, £2.95.

Plea for £50,000 limit on mortgage relief

By Rosemary Unsworth

The Law Society wants the Government to increase the house price limit for mortgage interest relief from £25,000 to £50,000. In a submission to the Treasury on the Finance Bill the society's committee, an revenue lawyer says that the limit has not been adjusted since 1974, despite the substantial increase in house prices.

There are still many people with borrowings in excess of £25,000 which were incurred before 1974, says the society. People were initially given six years to reorganise their finances. This was extended with the change of Government until April 1982.

The society maintains that this extension gave the impression that it was to enable the Government to consider whether the £25,000 limit should be removed, raised or left in place. It recommends that an early statement is made.

The Law Society is also worried about the Business Start-Up Scheme. While it welcomes tax relief in the scheme, it doubts if it will have the results it deserves. At present it is difficult for investors and suitable businesses to be introduced, and this problem may not be overcome within the three-year life of the scheme.

Financial Editor, page 23

Computer privacy safeguards

By Bill Johnstone

The Government has confirmed its intention to include in computer privacy legislation a safeguard whereby an individual can take action against those who break the law.

Mr Timothy Raison, Minister of State at the Home Office, has been outlining the structure of the proposals to the parliamentary Information Technology Committee.

He said: "It would be our intention to create a civil remedy for any person damaged as a result of a failure by an operator to observe his published operating criteria or in any other similar way. In the case of the public sector, the jurisdiction of the Ombudsman would be attracted."

The Government is standing firm in its opposition to an independent authority to control the use of computer data files. It prefers a system of compulsory registration by the users of computer files.

Mr Raison said: "The legislation as we envisage it at present, will provide for the establishment of a public register of systems storing and handling personal information electronically."

According to the Government, the obligation to register would carry with it a requirement to specify a number of aspects of the system, including its description and purpose, a list of those who would receive information, the security of the system and the maintenance of the quality of information.

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Lloyd's Bill 'divorce' clause fight

By Richard Allen

Officials of Lloyd's are urging members to vote against a parliamentary demand for an amendment to the Insurance Brokers' new self-regulation Bill, even though the Bill could be wrecked as a result.

In a confidential letter to underwriters, the market's Underwriting Agents Association expresses dismay at the parliamentary call for a new clause to prevent managers of syndicates from acting as agents for members—the so-called "divorce" clause.

The letter states: "We unanimously advise you to inform your names to vote against any proposal for divorce although we fully appreciate that this could mean that the Bill has to be withdrawn."

A confidential memorandum has also gone out to broking chiefs from Lloyd's Insurance Brokers' Committee supporting the underwriting association's standpoint. It says: "We have no hesitation in recommending that Lloyd's brokers should take similar action."

Both groups are hopeful that an overwhelming vote against the demand, in a ballot scheduled for July 27, will encourage the parliamentary committee dealing with the Bill to reconsider its decision.

Market officials have reluctantly conceded that another parliamentary demand for divestment between insurance brokers and underwriters—may have to be accepted, because of the potential conflict of interest, although they are pressing for further discussions.

Courtaulds to shut London derry plant

From Our Own Correspondent, Belfast

Government offers of substantial financial support to Courtaulds to continue operation of its homebased linen plant at Carrick, Londonderry, have been rejected and the textile group will close the works with the loss of 630 jobs.

The announcement, yesterday brings the total number of redundancies made in the province in the last three days to more than a thousand and marks a further contraction in what was once a leading production area for man-made fibres.

Union leaders at the plant which has lost £11m since it opened in 1976, were told of the decision by Dr Vera Furness, the plant director.

Despite talks with the Department of Commerce in Ulster, during which the Government offered to provide substantial financial support to the company, Courtaulds decided there was no hope of the plant becoming profitable in the foreseeable future.

In Londonderry, where Courtaulds was the second largest employer after DUPONT, and neighbouring Linavady, 10,475 people (25 per cent of the workforce) are now unemployed.

A spokesman for Courtaulds blamed operating losses and high import penetration for the closure.

Mr Adam Butler, Minister of State with responsibility for industry in Ulster, said that he reluctantly had to respect the company's commercial judgment.

Next year the Commons public accounts committee criticized the lack of control of public spending on the project and estimated that the cost of providing each job at the site was £10,000.

A Courtaulds spokesman said the Carrick plant had cost £60m with the company supplying about £40m and the Government £20m.

The MP for Londonderry, Mr William Ross, expressed his "astonishment" at the Courtaulds announcement.

Leyland misses a £10m bus

By Clifford Webb

The West Midlands Passenger Transport Committee yesterday awarded its entire 1982 order for 175 double-decker buses, worth £10m, to the Birmingham-based Metro-Cammell company.

Despite a last-minute appeal to committee members, Leyland Vehicles failed to win a single order for the fourth year running.

But the committee left the door open by deciding that 100 of the 350 buses to be ordered in the following three years will go to someone other than Metro-Cammell.

Mr Ken MacIver, managing director of Leyland Bus, wrote to each of the 16 committee members on Tuesday.

He pointed out that Leyland spent £75m a year with West Midlands components companies and if it adopted a policy of buying only from those areas which purchased its buses, the consequences for the West Midlands would be serious.

Fine Art Developments

-mail order and greeting cards-

Year ended 31st March	1981 £000's	1980 £000's
SALES	£75,704	£58,062
TRADING PROFIT	£7,444	£7,274
INTEREST	£2,813	£1,217
PROFIT before tax	£4,631	£6,057
DIVIDENDS per share	2.750p	2.500p

Fine Art Developments Limited

The 1981 Report and Accounts are available from the Secretary at Fine Art House, Queen Street, Burton upon Trent, Staffordshire, DE14 3LP.

Land Securities

Details of the Group's major property interests and maps showing their location are incorporated with the Directors' Report and Accounts for the year ended 31st March 1981, which have been despatched to shareholders.

Non-shareholders may obtain a copy on written request to:

THE LAND SECURITIES INVESTMENT TRUST LIMITED
Devonshire House, Piccadilly, London W1X 6BT

PRICE CHANGES

Rises
Fossil Tin 27 1/2p to 102p
Churchbury Est 15p to 635p
French 8p to 120p
Pegler-Batters 10p to 308p

Falls
Franklin Hill 30p to 855p
Guthrie Corp 75p to 800p
Harrison Corp 25p to 825p
Kinnross 15p to 595p
Pretorian P Cem 20p to 355p

Owen Owen
Steele 5p to 263p
Tricentrol 7p to 228p
UC Invest 6p to 565p
Ultramar 5p to 448p

Centrust
Sun All 16p to 349p
Tunnel Holes 12p to 430p
Royal 10p to 380p
Westland Air 12p to 143p

Renewal of textile agreement

From Mr. Ben Ford, MP for Bradford North (Labour) and others

As many of your readers will be aware, the European Commission will shortly be entering into negotiations with the GATT Textile Committee on the renewal of the Multi-Fibre Arrangement (MFA) international trade agreement. It is a matter of some considerable concern to MPs that there is so little in the way of domestic industry support for the MFA when over the last two years some 160,000 jobs have been lost to the textile and clothing industry.

Through almost 600,000 people employed in the industry, which makes it a bigger employer than the iron and steel and coal-mining industries put together, the experience of the past two years has created considerable uncertainty about future job prospects among workers, their families and the communities that are in many instances so heavily dependent on textiles.

Under the present MFA agreement import quotas have been allowed to grow at a much faster rate than domestic consumer demand. United Kingdom manu-

facturers have found their home markets eroded by low cost imports and at the same time have found it increasingly difficult to export their wares because of deteriorating price competitiveness in the face of a strong pound.

To provide the confidence to invest in new technologies, new designs and new marketing arrangements, United Kingdom manufacturers need some form of commitment from the United Kingdom Government and from the EEC that there will be a future for the domestic industry.

The negotiation of an MFA that closely links growth in low cost imports to growth in EEC consumer demand and allocates quotas to those countries that have adverse trade balances with the EEC and low tariff barriers against our own textile exports, would be a step in the right direction, a step that would help to avoid a repetition of the catastrophic job loss of the last two years.

The objective at the end of the day must be fairer international textile trade regime that will allow increased access by low-cost supplier countries

to EEC and more particularly United States markets—the latter grew four times as fast as the EEC market between 1973 and 1979—without the whole-sale destruction of those jobs that are vitally needed to maintain the economic and social fabric of major industrial areas such as the East Midlands, Northern Ireland, Lancashire and West Yorkshire.

There must be better informed and more open debate in government time the main issues involved, before the EEC Council of Ministers takes decisions in matters so vital to United Kingdom interests.

Yours sincerely,

BEN FORD,
(Chairman, All Party Parliamentary Wool Textiles Group),
NICHOLAS R. WINTERTON,
(Chairman, All Party Parliamentary Cotton and Allied Textile Group),
KEN WOOLMER,
(Chairman, Parliamentary Labour Party Textile Group),
House of Commons
London, SW1A 0AA

Changes in pilotage laws

From the Chief Executive of The Pilotage Commission

Sir, Mr Hay's letter (May 29) made two references to the chief executive of the Pilotage Commission.

Having sought to discredit the Merchant Shipping Act, 1979 and the two committees of inquiry, SCOP and ACOP, which preceded its enactment with all-party support, Mr Hay stated:

"The sole shipowners' representative on these committees is now the chief executive of the Pilotage Commission."

Your readers may draw their own conclusions about the impression Mr Hay was seeking to create.

Has Mr Hay read the SCOP and ACOP reports which he dismisses as the products of committees with constitutions "biased in favour of the pilots"? The first page of the ACOP report identified the members of the committee.

They included Mr Geoffrey Bedford, managing director, Croyder, Irvine & Co, Mr Fred Everard, chairman, F. T. Everard & Sons, and Mr George K. Biffen, a director, B. T. Everard's. I was not a member.

As secretary of the Pilotage Committee of the Chamber of Shipping of the United Kingdom, I was the most junior of shipping representatives on the earlier SCOP committee.

The late David Robinson of Stag Line, then chairman of the committee and a past president of the chamber and Andrew Wats on, a senior colleague, were the others.

As to alleged pilot bias, while ACOP had four pilots as compared to three prominent shipowner members, it also included an independent chairman, three port authority and two pilotage authority members.

In his other reference to me, Mr Hay criticized my statement that the commission was conducting its affairs on the basis of "open government". But having objected to the draft bylaws in London, Mr Hay has been provided by the commission with opportunities to:

(a) expand his views verbally before a sub-committee of the commission; and

(b) put in further written submissions, following the London meetings.

Mr Hay has taken advantage of these opportunities and his views have been considered.

Finally, as he knows, when the commission has produced its advice to the Secretary of State it will be sent to all objectors, who will be able to comment to the Secretary of State before any decision is taken on the bylaws. Mr Hay need not even copy his comments to the commission. If he takes advantage of this "open government" opportunity, I hope Mr Hay will refrain from referring to me personally. If not, perhaps he will at least check to ensure that his statements are factually correct.

JOHN P. CALLEN,
Chief Executive,
The Pilotage Commission,
1-19 New Oxford Street,
London WC1 1DZ.

Trade union participation in quality circles

From Mr R. Collard

Sir, Having just returned from seeing "quality circles" in operation in Japan I was interested to read that the TUC had issued guidelines on how to set up quality circles.

Visiting plants of such well known companies as Canon, Nissan Steel and Nissan, I found that when quality circles were first developed some 12 years ago the companies experienced similar concerns from their trade unions. As a result, they carefully explained the goals of quality circles and emphasized they were designed to run parallel to the existing trade union consultative and negotiating machinery. Quality circles have therefore become a dynamic feature of Japanese industrial life, supported by the trade unions. In fact the concept is now spreading from manufacturing industry to retailing and banking.

The concerns of the TUC are also reflected in the recent guide on quality circles which we have published and which emphasized the need for appropriate briefing and involvement of trade union representatives.

Yours faithfully,

R. COLLARD,
Bridger Hamlyn Fry & Co,
2 St Bride Street,
London EC4A 4HR,
June 5.

Bass Limited Interim Statement

For 28 weeks ended 11th April, 1981

28 weeks to 11.4.81 28 weeks to 12.4.80 Year to 30.9.80

Sales to customers (Note 1 & 2(a)) £ millions 840.6 £ millions 662.8 £ millions 1,262.8

Net revenue:—

Bass activities 89.0 75.1 162.2

Former Coral activities (Note 2(b)) (3.2) — —

Surplus on disposal of Fixed Assets and Investments 85.8 75.1 162.2

Less Depreciation (24.6) (19.6) (37.0)

Trading Profit 62.1 58.7 132.5

Cost of Borrowing 11.0 8.6 19.0

Profit before taxation 51.1 50.1 113.5

United Kingdom and Overseas taxation (Note 4) 14.0 16.2 36.6

Profit after taxation 37.1 33.9 76.9

Attributable to outside shareholders 0.5 0.4 0.7

Preference Dividends 0.2 0.2 0.3

Earnings available for ordinary shareholders 36.4 33.3 75.9

Ordinary dividends paid and proposed 8.1 6.4 24.0

Ordinary dividends paid and proposed—p/shs re 2.53p 2.3p 8.6p

Earnings per ordinary share (Note 6) 12.1p 11.9p 27.2p

NOTES:

1. Sales to customers were below expectation reflecting the serious effect of the economic recession and on consequent pressure on consumer spending.

2. Coral Acquisition (a) The sales attributable to Coral for the period 2nd January, 1981 to 11th April, 1981 were £7.0.6m.

(b) The loss from former Coral trading activities during the period 2nd January, 1981 to 11th April, 1981 is attributable to the seasonal nature of these activities.

(c) It is not intended to publish Coral consolidated accounts for 1980 as this would have meant deferring integration and the cost of this delay could not be justified. Since acquisition the main Coral activities other than racing and holidays have been integrated with existing management companies of Bass.

3. A provision of £1.9m (1980: £1.9m) for the Bass Employee Share Ownership Scheme has been made against the net revenue from Bass activities.

4. Taxation has been provided at 27.5% (1980: adjusted to 32.5%) of profits before taxation.

5. An interim dividend of 2.53p per share (2.3p) on the ordinary shares will be paid on 24th July, 1981.

6. Earnings per ordinary share are calculated by dividing the earnings available for ordinary shareholders (£36.4m (£33.3m) by 300.6m (279.4m) being the average number of ordinary shares of 25p in issue during the period. The number of shares ranking for dividend is 320.1m.

7. During the 28 week period ended 11th April, 1981 capital expenditure was £61.6m (1980: £54.8m).

8. The above figures have not been audited.

Attempt to rejuvenate a flagging industry

Awards to help shoemakers

By Derek Harris, Commercial Editor

A series of marketing awards, on the pattern of the Queen's Awards to Industry, are being launched to boost the flagging fortunes of the British footwear industry. But as Mr Kenneth Baker, Minister for Industry and Information Technology, inaugurated the scheme in London yesterday, warnings came about continuing trading problems for the industry, with recent bad weather hitting seasonal sales of women's footwear.

Sales of children's shoes are holding up well but sales of men's shoes are the worst hit sector in the industry all this year — are still languishing, Mr Spencer Crookenden, chairman of the footwear economic development committee, said at the National Economic Development Office (NEDO).

NEDO is one of four sponsors for the marketing awards scheme together with the British Footwear Manufacturers' Federation (BFMF), the Somerset-based footwear manufacturers, and British Shoe Corporation, part of Secur-Holdings, which both manufacture and retail footwear.

The awards, aimed at rewarding marketing achievements and innovative endeavours, will first be handed out next January. They will be based on company performance over an 18-month period to the end

of last month. Subsequently, the scheme will cover a 12-month period.

Three awards are planned: the first for export marketing achievement, the next for United Kingdom marketing by manufacturers of branded footwear, and the third for marketing achievement, at home or abroad, jointly by manufacturers and retailers.

At present, any company without a coherent marketing plan tends to flounder like a ship without a rudder, Mr Crookenden added. He said that the "little NEDdy" for the footwear industry was concentrating its work on encouraging improvements in productivity and exports but both of these depended on a well-thought-out approach to marketing.

Mr Baker pointed out that marketing and design were two other key areas for improving performance. Average productivity and returns from investment had long been a cause for concern in Britain, he went on, noting how the French produced 55 per cent in 1979 and the Americans 42 per cent in 1979 and the Americans 42 per cent in 1979 and the Americans 42 per cent in 1979.

On the other hand in Britain, although the footwear production had fallen, value added per employee had risen sharply, Mr Baker said. "It is important to recognize the contribution made to our economy by

industries like footwear. I do not underestimate, and I am certain my son is not indifferent to the problems the industry is facing."

In the 12 months to the end of March, British manufacturers produced 133 million pairs of footwear, a 9 per cent decline on the comparable previous period, according to the latest BFMF return. The value of production had declined 3.5 per cent.

Employment in the industry, once running around 70,000, rose marginally in February but was still under 63,000.

The latest state of imports which last year, for several months accounted for more than 50 per cent of United Kingdom retail sales, is not quite clear owing to lack of statistics, but Mr Crookenden believes import penetration is now being held at 48 per cent.

The weather effects on recent retail sales, with few women buying summer sandals, will be felt most by importers from sources such as Italy and the Far East.

Almost continuous sales offers on footwear in shops has kept retail prices in check, squeezing manufacturers' margins. But this also led to a slight trade improvement in March, according to the BFMF.

Companies Bill move 'dangerous'

By Clifford Webb

The Birmingham Chamber of Industry and Commerce yesterday introduced a motion to oppose the Companies Bill (No 2) now before Parliament contained dangerous changes in business practice.

In a letter to committee members Mr John Warburton, the chamber's director, said the proposed abolition of the Business Names Registry would remove an essential safeguard against business malpractice.

The registry requires one-man companies not trading under their own names to disclose full details which are open to inspection by the public.

The new Bill will give the Secretary of State for Trade the right to sell the existing records without reference to interested parties.

The Birmingham chamber is recommending that, far from abolishing the registry should be improved and extended. This could be funded by increasing fees which in most cases have not been raised since 1916.

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Big groups lend helping hand on £600,000 workshops project

By Baron Phillips

Four leading British companies have joined in a non-profit-making venture to breathe life into one of London's run-down inner city areas.

Barclays Bank, Midland Bank, BP and Shell are partners in the London Enterprise Agency and will be spending £600,000 on converting a near-derelict nineteenth-century warehouse in Spitalfields into a new business centre.

The scheme was unveiled yesterday by Mr John Raisman, chairman and chief executive of Shell UK, at a conference on "The private sector and the inner city" marking the centenary of the London Chamber of Commerce and Industry.

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BY THE FINANCIAL EDITOR

Westland's wings clipped

Hopes of some growth at Westland Aircraft to follow up last year's 76 per cent jump in pretax profits have been dashed by the interim figures. Instead of the 30 per cent improvement generally expected, the outcome was an 18 per cent upturn to £12.4m pretax. That, and the warning that the second half will not match last year's second half suggest a repeat performance of last year's £27m with the consolation that the total dividend should be up by at least 9 per cent to put the shares at 143p on a yield of 6 per cent.

All of which has a mildly academic quality compared to the effects positive news from the Ministry of Defence on the EH101 contract would have on the share price. Mr. Norton's stringency in demanding £2.75m from Westland should this contract go ahead as well as the indications of higher private capital commitment to the development of the WG 30 has already taken some of the gloss off this news but the announcement should, nevertheless, be good for 20p on the shares.

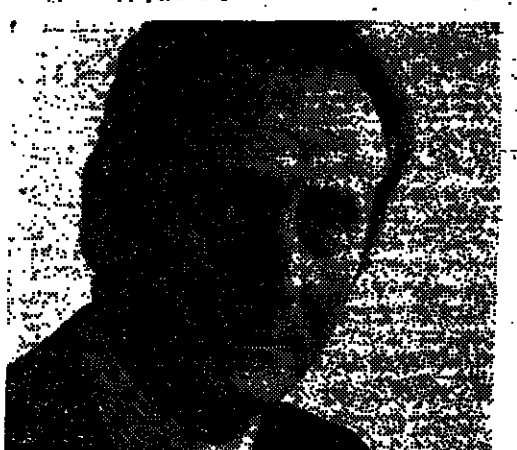
So Westland, having put its financial and management house in order last year, is still overwhelmingly dependent on the whims of the MoD. In helicopters, the only long-term way out of this is to improve its civilian sales which may well prove to be a function of management as much as of products. But, for the company as a whole, the key may well turn out to be the performance of the control equipment and systems division which increased operating profits from £2.5m to £3.8m compared with the roughly static £6.4m from helicopters and the dip from £1.1m to £413,000 in hovercraft.

This rate of growth and quality of earnings deserves something substantially better than the fully taxed p/e ratio of 5.4 for the group as a whole and that would suggest that the scale of contribution from this division by the year end may well mean that it will play a bigger part in the rating of the shares. Certainly, a capitalisation of £40m to £50m for this division alone would not seem excessive against a total currency of £85m for the group as a whole.

Hanson Trust A conglomerate that works

Even though its takeover skills are being fully tested Hanson's consistent profit record is still almost a byword, and its reputation will be further enhanced by the interim profits increase of 13 per cent to £18.2m. As is its custom, Hanson has also raised the dividend by the same amount to 6.07p gross.

Like all conglomerates, Hanson hopes that lower performance from some of its companies will be offset by a stronger showing elsewhere. In this last six months, the United States has provided much of the action with Carlsbrook, the textile group, doing particularly well, with some 75 per



Sir James Hanson, chairman of Hanson Trust.

cent of turnover and 70 per cent of operating profit now earned across the Atlantic. The sale for \$50m of the McDonough cement interests gives Hanson the choice of reducing United States borrowings or making further purchases.

The recession obviously hit some of the British companies hard, Barbour Campbell, the yarn and thread company, and many of the engineering interests are suffering from reduced demand, although they are still profitable. But the newfound strength of the dollar could mean an even bigger United States contribution in the second

half. If the dollar had been converted at \$2 to the pound rather than \$2.23, another £1.7m would have been added to profits.

Since Hanson revealed its five months' profits when announcing April's \$25m Euro-bond issue the interim result was no surprise. But the currency factor, high American interest rates, and the continued weakness of British industry must make the second half less predictable. On present showing, however, £47m pretax does not look out of reach.

On the conservative assumption that the full dividend also goes up by 13 per cent to 13.7p gross, the shares are on a prospective yield of 5 per cent at last night's price of 274p, up 4p.

LOFs Victim of the oil glut

The shipping scene is everywhere flecked with cloud, except in tankers where it is black. Tankers are the speciality of London & Overseas Freighters. The line has nothing to look forward to until OPEC oil cuts and an eventual recovery in demand eliminate the world glut, and the only consolation for LOFs is that it now has only one large tanker. It also has two small ones and a half interest in a third, and these can ply for what business there is because they get into small ports.

Shareholders were warned a year ago that the group had no plans to sell further ships, and the outcome to the year to last March was a pretax loss of £127,000, against a profit of £4.2m in 1979-80. Last year did not benefit at all from a surplus on the disposal of vessels; the year before it boosted profits by £4.2m. The group remains liquid, and cash balances were more than 40p a share in the last balance sheet.

Net assets in total are probably twice yesterday's share price of 43p, down 2p despite an unchanged dividend. Apart from the oil glut ending, LOFs must also hope that high interest rates on dollars will fall while they remain high in sterling.

Elsewhere in shipping, the end of the United States coal strike should help the dry cargo trades; grain is reasonably busy—the United States is once again about to sell grain to the Soviet Union but the outlook for ores is discouraging, reflecting the world steel slump. The main hope must be of world trade recovery some time next year. Even so, shipping shares characteristically sell at big discounts to assets, and the recent acquisition of Furness Withy point to take-bid battles for Stag Line and the CY Tung over possibilities. But as a sector, shipping at present lacks excitement.

It is game and set to Allianz but Eagle Star is clearly not prepared yet to concede the match. Yesterday, the Eagle Star management was promised to take its battle for full independence to the Office of Fair Trading, the German Kartell office, the EEC commission and anyone else prepared to listen. All of which hardly advances the cause of EEC harmonization and liberalization of insurance business—something that British companies had hitherto been crying out for.

It is also hard to imagine what Eagle Star hopes to achieve particularly as Allianz adhered strictly to the Council for the Securities Industry rules in buying 28.1 per cent of the equity. At the same time yesterday's fall in the share price to 283p hardly lends support to the Eagle Star view that Allianz got its stake too cheaply even though the asset value is around 450p a share.

Eagle Star could, of course, be right if its intention is to prove that Allianz can expect a tougher fight if it plans to return for a full bid at a later date. But, in the short-term, shareholders could be better served if the dust were allowed to settle and the two groups got down to constructive talks.

Meanwhile, yesterday's falls throughout the insurance sector now that the excitement is over do not seem to support the theory that composites are heavily undervalued. Discounts on net assets of up to 50 per cent do exist, but the return on those assets has been dwindling fast. Investors may need further evidence of predatory interest before they can believe the obvious potential for gains in historically high solvency ratios is about to be realized.

The Government has taken last week's slide in the pound with remarkable coolness and equanimity. Even the Opposition has failed to make much political capital out of the situation.

I have been waiting in vain for a front bench spokesman to accuse the Government of the final madness, first allowing the exchange rate to rise to levels that wiped out major sections of British industry, then allowing it to fall with such a thud that all survivors would surely be engulfed in a new tidal wave of inflation. Perhaps they are just biding their time.

Be that as it may, the Government has at least been consistent within the parameters imposed by its chosen philosophy. It has not intervened in the foreign exchange markets to prevent the pound going either up or down, largely for two reasons.

First, it believes that foreign exchange intervention, which either pumps money into the economy or takes it out at a price determined by the Government, is incompatible with a serious policy of domestic money control (though one suspects that hard-line monetary base advocates might argue that as long as the Government intervenes to prevent the pound from falling, it is, in effect, intervening in the money market). It might just as well use foreign exchange intervention, too, as a monetary control technique.

Secondly, it believes that history has proved time and time again that the use of intervention to try to resist market pressures rarely works: markets generally win in the end.

But whether the Government can, or should, feel relaxed about the implications of what has happened is another matter. The most obvious worry at this stage must be the potential inflationary consequences. The defeat of inflation is, after all, the cornerstone of government economic policy.

When the Treasury made its Budget forecast one inflation in its central estimates were for a 10 per cent rate by the fourth quarter of this year (with a 2 per cent margin of error either way) and for about 8 per cent

by the second quarter of 1982 (with a 4 per cent margin of error either way).

That forecast was based on the assumption of a constant exchange rate. Any movement in the pound is supposed to alter the retail price index over the first six to twelve months, by 1 per cent for every 1 per cent change in sterling's average value against a basket of currencies. Since the Budget forecast, sterling's average value has fallen by about 5 per cent.

On the face of it then, there might seem to be no enormous damage done so far. The point, however, is that it is only the first round effect; it is also assumed that any change in sterling's value will work through much more fully over the medium term.

Moreover, it could be argued that given the relative importance of the dollar in the pricing of our imports, and sterling's fall of more than a fifth against the dollar this year, the first round effects could be rather larger than assumed. Some economists would in any case argue that the impact of a falling pound makes itself felt in shop prices very much more rapidly than the Treasury allows.

What is certainly true is that even before the latest slide in sterling many forecasters saw the inflation rate bumping along the bottom this year and tending to rise modestly in 1982. It would be no surprise now to find most of the next batch of forecasts looking for a 12-15 per cent inflation rate in 1982.

Precisely what the more monetarist inclined ministers believe is likely to happen is not entirely clear. But it was no surprise to find Mr. Nigel Lawson, the Financial Secretary at the Treasury, telling the Commons last week that over the long run the domestic inflation rate will be determined by the domestic money supply.

Now this piece is not intended as a polemic against Mr. Lawson but important questions are raised by his remark, not least because it was he who doubted that last year's excessive money supply growth (15 per cent or so on the most generous of interpretations) would feed its way through into

a broadly similar inflation rate one or two years hence.

One of the cases more commonly put up as support for that line of thinking was that the "exceptional" nature of the oil factor in the sterling equation meant that for any given rise in the money supply the consequent rise in prices was likely to be less than it would have been under more normal circumstances.

But, if that was the case, then it would seem that some of the exceptional status attaching to sterling has now been removed and the prop for prices kicked from under.

It could, however, also be argued that even this does not matter since the underlying money supply appears to be back under control.

What follows from that line of argument is that any renewed inflationary pressures arising from the fall in sterling will simply not be accommodated. But, if that is the argument, then I would make three points.

The first is that one simply cannot deny that renewed inflationary pressures exist despite the general softness of world commodity prices. This should become abundantly clear in the June wholesale price figures.

Secondly, once one accepts that those inflationary pressures are there, then one must also accept that there are medium-term implications for the United Kingdom economy. It may be that control of the money supply can restrain the growth in nominal national income, but even the Government appears to have come to accept that within that total the split between the real and the inflationary components are unpredictable.

In other words, control of the money supply does not automatically mean that inflationary pressures cannot work their way into the price level. (And it certainly does not mean that the downward pressure on living standards can be avoided.)

Third, if the Government is indeed serious about maintaining such a tight hold on the money supply in the face of sharply higher import and working capital costs, then the outlook for

domestic interest rates hardly looks bright.

The trend in bank lending has, it is true, been more encouraging recently from the monetary control viewpoint. But that reflects destocking, which may now be all but over, and the fact that companies have not had to borrow so much to finance tax payments. Some companies have, moreover, been able to use rights issues proceeds to reduce their short-term call on the banks.

That is not the only worry on the monetary front, however. It is also clear that a great deal of United Kingdom resident money has been sitting in foreign currency deposits this year, either taking advantage of high dollar interest rates or simply waiting for the sterling bubble to burst. Will this money be repatriated if sterling stabilizes? If it is, will it have serious monetary implications?

Amid all this gloom, what is there that is bright in the picture? One would like to take a more sanguine view of export prospects, but even here there are potential problems.

For a start, a sustained disinflationary squeeze by the Americans must leave a question-mark over the prospective buoyancy of world trade, though the present rise in the dollar should draw in more imports, at least in the short term.

Secondly, sterling has not fallen a great deal in our principal European export market. If it remains overvalued in dollar terms, then that is ten times more the case in relation to continental currencies.

What is the Government doing? In the short term it appears to be concentrating on keeping short-term interest rates down and hoping that the international interest rate war will blow itself out. It may then be that the medium-term issue it faces will be rather different—namely, how it should respond to falling dollar interest rates and the possibility of a strong recovery in sterling: an old question from a rather different starting point.

John Whitmore

Hard times hit the gaming tables

Las Vegas
Mr. Robert Fitzpatrick, a cab driver in this gambling mecca for the past 11 years, complains that business is bad. "We're a good barometer," he says, rather relishing his role as economic soothsayer.

"My business has dropped 25 per cent this year. All fares are up there's those fares (at the Hilton and MGM Grand hotels) and the country's economy is shaky."

As most big American cities reel under the impact of mounting unemployment, high interest rates and sagging economies, Las Vegas, whose main industry is tourism, may not be a citadel of gloom, but is definitely feeling the pinch. Gambling revenues were down \$10m to \$408.5m in the first quarter of this year, compared with 1980, and early returns show that the picture will not change in the second quarter.

Tourists are not flocking to gamble or stroll in the sun and that means that casinos and hotels are suffering. Many of the bigger hotels, card and dice tables stand empty, slot machines are silent and, in a city where you often need to know someone who knew someone to get a choice room in one of the Strip's fancier hotels, the rooms now go begging.

Over breakfast a young Indian student staying at the Frontier Hotel, one of the more fashionable hostels, volunteered that even he was amazed at how cheap the money was. "I'm paying \$32 a night for this place—I mean you can't get a motel for that price any more."

During a few days in Las Vegas, one gets the impression that the city is a half-filled cabaret and there is never any problem getting on to flights in or out of the city. In the past you had to book weeks in advance. Now arrivals are down some 15 per cent.



There is still a warm welcome for visitors to Las Vegas, but casinos and hotels are now suffering from a drop in tourist numbers.

Atlantic City on the East Coast of the United States, Mr. Reid says. He points out that Atlantic City is suffering from the same problems as Las Vegas.

With Americans so recession-conscious Mr. Bill Reid, manager of tourism for the city, says that he is trying to lure British visitors to Las Vegas's basking moon-day sun during the slower summer months. "Our projections show that visitors to the United States from Britain are up 14 per cent this year. Of the 15 million who come from the United Kingdom to North America we hope to draw at least a quarter of a million or more here."

"With Laker leading the way in chartering, you are much likely to find a British accent in the Casino as an American," he says.

The recent fall in the pound could, of course, make many Britons look again at the economy of going to America. As with any other leisure industry, Las Vegas is in a toe-to-toe struggle for "the dis-

cretionary dollar" with other entertainment services around the country, Mr. Reid says. He also concedes that the catastrophic fire at the MGM Grand Hotel last November which left 84 dead, injured 700 and badly damaged the 26-storey hotel, and a second one at the Las Vegas Hilton, dealt the tourist business a savage blow. (The MGM Grand will reopen at the end of July.)

Las Vegas's recent decline cannot, however, be blamed on the growth of gambling in the City, in New Jersey, has limited hotel space; and he adds: "Our figures show that most people go there for about six hours, whereas the average stay here is two or three days. Atlantic City has some 60 million people from surrounding States to draw from."

Las Vegas's decline is still optimistic that the slump may soon end. Mr. Alair Reid, at the Las Vegas News Bureau, says that building is still booming along the city's neon crowded main boulevard, where hotels sit shoulder to shoulder and climb ever higher into the sky. Several big Strip hotels are spending millions of dollars

to build new rooms, wings and convention halls and the city is ballyhooing the fact that 1982 is also the fiftieth anniversary of gambling in Nevada.

Casino Palace is one of the more flamboyant hotels that is continually expanding. It lists among its "key" employees entertainer Frank Sinatra, who usually sings in the Circus Maximus cabaret room. But it is rumoured that Sinatra may shortly become a cashless owner now that the Nevada Gaming Commission has restored his casino licence. This had been revoked seventeen years ago after he was reported to have played host to a Mafia chief.

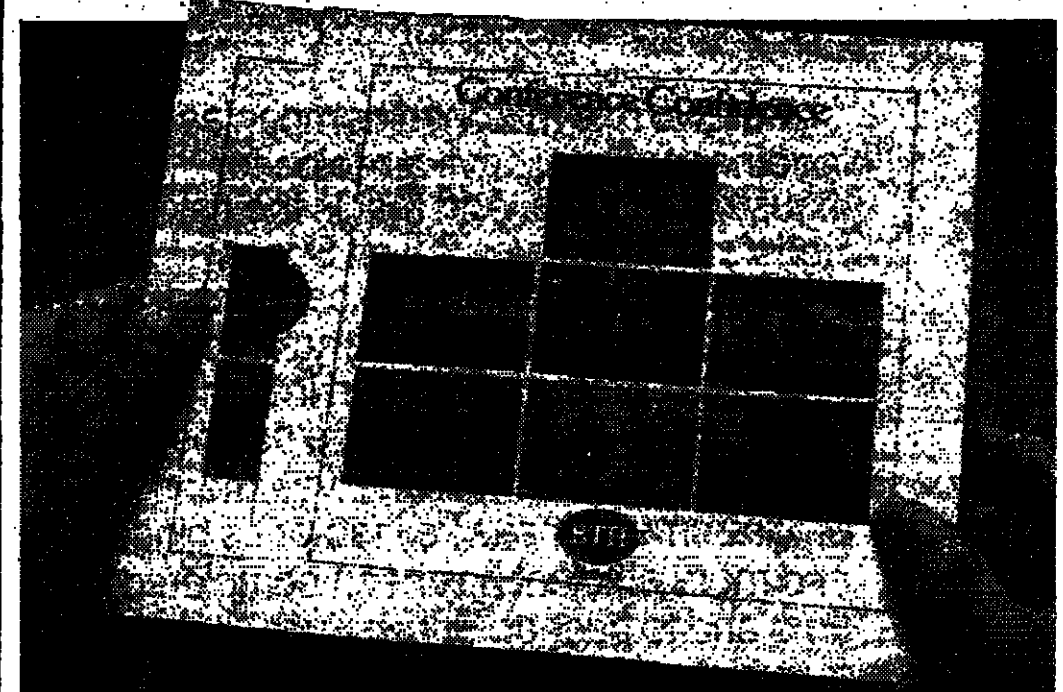
In the old days Las Vegas was strictly an adults-only town. Now there is a distinct emphasis to try to entice families. Circus Circus, a hotel that features 24-hours-a-day free circus acts under its pink and white painted big top, offers families rooms for \$20 to \$25 a night, with no extra charge for children. While the youngsters watch the clowns, the parents can ply the fruit machines a few feet away.

Today, residents of Nevada still enjoy the second highest per capita income in the United States. In the neighbouring state of Utah the residents are hoping that President Reagan will not put the \$34,000m MX missile system in their state.

The attitude in Las Vegas is that if the President chooses Nevada, there is a distinct possibility that it will create thousands of new jobs and be a big boost to the local economy.

Ivor Davis

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BTH
Hotels

Business Diary: Jaguar bares its fangs

John Egan, the 41-year-old chairman of BLS Jaguar subsidiary, is fast becoming the bogeyman of the British component industry. He has just sacked six suppliers and insisted that many more should share their contracts with rivals—to keep them on their toes.

Egan, who took over Jaguar 14 months ago, refuses to name the bad boys, but says: "Surely, it was often the high-grade suppliers, some of them with Ministry of Defence contracts, who let us down."

The motor trade has long held the opinion that Jaguar designs fine cars, but has no chance of competing effectively with Mercedes or BMW until their quality improves. One of the first things Egan did when he rejoined BL from Massey Ferguson last year was to go cap in hand to Mercedes to find out how they did it.

The answer was surprisingly simple. Most quality and reliability problems with cars can be traced back to faulty components, so Mercedes puts all components through a rigorous series of checks as soon as they arrive at the factory.

In some cases they even strip complicated assemblies to check individual parts. A single fault frequently leads to ruthless rejection of the entire batch and delayed payment.

Egan wasted little time in introducing similar systems at Jaguar's plant at Browns Lane, Coventry.

Anyone launching a new theatre company risks getting the bird in the present economic climate, but the directors of London's American Theatre Company are trying none the less to raise between £500,000 and £1m from corporate sponsors.

The company already has an impressive list of patrons including Tennessee Williams, Carl Hiaasen and Patricia Neal. More than 150,000 Americans live in Britain, to whom authentic productions of American plays could be a box-office draw.

One of the directors is the actress Beth Porter (right), a New Yorker who works here and who, aptly enough, played the phobic fixer, Kitty Schreiber in the television series *Rock Follies*. She told *Business Diary* yesterday that they were now trying to tap some of the 8,000 American companies in Britain for the funds to run a six-month season of plays.

Bruce Fireman, a director of merchant bankers Charterhouse Japhet, has been given a chance to live up to his name. Fireman, 37, had hardly taken up his present appointment as acting head of finance on the departure of Philip Ralph for GEC when chief executive John Hyde told him that he did not want to confirm him in that post.



The company, she says, is planning to present a single West End production later this year, while arranging for corporate sponsorship from companies' 1982-83 budgets to run the longer season next year. While firms may not be rushing to fork out money at present, she said they had at least one going down to encourage sponsors: the American Theatre Company is incorporated as a not-for-profit organization in New York State, and since there are tax incentives for such sponsorship in the United States, American firms based here could pay out through their head offices and then collect the kudos in Britain.

Meanwhile, the group is holding a different sort of fundraising effort on July 5, gala at the Theatre Royal, Drury Lane, a slightly belated celebration of American Independence Day.

Among those taking part are Elaine Stritch, John Bay and the cast of *The Best Little Whorehouse in Texas*. There will also be an excerpt from a new American musical, *Pecan Pie*, with music by Scott Joplin, which has yet to be seen even in the United States.

Being called Walter Scott may or may not be an advantage in Edinburgh financial circles, for, after all, the novelist of the same name was no great shakes as a manager of money. The name does not seem to have done much harm, however, to Walter Grant Scott, a managing director of the Edinburgh investment managers Ivory and Stone. At 34 he is managing about £450m a year.

He is now joining the board of Systems Designers International on behalf of Independent Investment Company and institutional investors who earlier this year bought the National Enterprise Board's 26 per cent stake in SDL.

They say it is a poor workman who blames his tools, but what of the workman who blames the other chaps? Fity the well-known City insurance brokers who had their gourmet French directors over for lunch recently only to have their caterers confront them with a very nasty version of a traditional English steak and kidney pie. So piqued were they, the brokers had the pie filling chemically analysed, and found it to be mostly traditional English—saga. The caterers have been fired and the French have gone back to worrying about Mitterrand.

Ross Davies

The Guardian Investment Trust Company Limited

Results for year ending 31st March 1981:

Ten Year Record	Gross Revenue	Earnings per Share	Net Dividend	Net Asset Value
Year to 31st March	£'000	p.	p.	p.
1971	1,588	2.18	1.21	72.9
1979	3,162	3.18	3.15	122.5
1980	3,856	4.69	4.60	106.7
1981	3,981	4.78	4.70	147.7

Assets spread as follows:

UK 76% N. America 10% Far East 11%
Other Areas 3%

*Including special dividend of 0.70p

The Guardian Investment Trust Company Limited
P&O Building (2nd Floor), 122 Leadenhall Street, London EC3V 4QR
Tel: 01-283 2400.

Pegler 13pc down but shares rise

Shares of engineering group Pegler-Hattersley jumped 8p to 176p yesterday in spite of a 13 per cent drop in its pre-tax profits to £10.9m for the year to March 28. The dividend has been maintained at 13.6p gross.

Group sales of £112m against £110m were boosted by turnover of £9m from the first full year of European distributor Hovac, bought in late 1979. Group trading profits fell by two fifths to £4.4m, with the biggest fall in the building products division where demand has been very poor for more than a year. All British divisions made lower profits.

Associated companies increased their contribution from £4.93m to £6.15m with most of that coming from South Africa. The figures include sales months' profit from McEvoy sold towards the end of the year for £16.5m.

Part of that was used to eliminate debt, and the bulk remains on deposit while the group looks for acquisitions in the United Kingdom and abroad. Interest received in 1980-81 totalled £1m against interest costs of £516,000, the year before.

Lower copper prices meant that stocks of copper-based alloys had to be depreciated by £710,000, against appreciation of £760,000 in 1979-80, before striking the pretax profit. An extraordinary credit of £15m included profits on the McEvoy sale after group redundancy costs and provisions of £3.65m, reflecting the loss of 1,500 jobs.

Gilts recover their confidence

Gilts staged a modest rally yesterday on further consideration of the encouraging banking figures and the firmer pound.

Otherwise, the market was extremely subdued with leading equities still dominated by fears of a possible rights issue from BP. Although the day passed with no such call, the rumours continued unabated that BP will, whether it be this week or over the next year, make a fund raising call in the region of £400m. Last night a BP spokesman declined to comment. It was enough to keep investors away and share prices, after opening slightly better, drifted lower during the day to perk up by the close.

The troubled labour outlook, rising inflation and the interest to the unsettled conditions. News of the prime rate cuts from small banks in the United States also helped the revived confidence in the gilt market. With prospects of a rise in interest rates easing, dealers reported reasonable buying activity.

Longs opened better and rises were consolidated through the day. Wall Street's firm opening also helped and by the close rises of up to 1 1/2 were made. After a 1 1/2 gain in the morning, shorts held a good rally to record rises of 1 1/2 at the better end.

The FT index rose 0.2 to 545.4 at 10 pm but by noon had fallen to 541.8. It hovered at about this level for the rest of the afternoon to pick up and closed 3.3 down at 542.3.

Investors stayed away from blue chip shares which drifted

aimlessly through the session. Dealers described slack trade with most leaders at narrowly mixed prices at the close. ICI 2p up at 278p and Glaxo a similar gain to 364p, were among the exceptions. Fisons ended 2p down at 146p, Dunlop 2p lower at 77p and Metal Box 6p at 178p. Bass, after previous day's results, was unchanged at 242p and British Aerospace was 4p off at 225p. Unilever stayed at 576p.

After the previous day's spotlight, both the banking and insurance sectors were dull. Royal Bank of Scotland, after talk of the possibility of a go-ahead for Hongkong Bank's bid slipped back 4p to 186p. The four clearers eased later on rumours of a potential United States bid, with Barclays 3p lower at 410p, Midland 4p at 331p and National Westminster

5p down at 358p. Lloyds eased 2p to 351p. Eagle Star, after Allianz's 28.1 per cent tender stake, came back from suspension to add 7p to 290p but closed back at 285p. The recent profit-taking in the other composites saw prices lower. GRE dropped 6p to 300p, General Accident lost 8p to 318p and Commercial Union 4p to 167p. Royal eased 10p to 390p, Phoenix 8p to 278p and Sun Alliance, after its big gains, 14p to 870p.

Buildings were another sombre sector and with no offer coming yet from RTZ for Tunnel Holdings, shares dropped back 12p to 430p, 5p below the offer price from TFW Ward, which fell 5p to 125p.

Housebuilders were also dull performers as sentiment had been looking for a downturn in interest rates.

The oil sector opened looking

ragged, overshadowed by talk of the BP rights issue. But shares picked up when an announcement followed, and finished during the day. Jobbers reported sizable selling orders from the United Kingdom and overseas clients and a number of new buyers in the United Kingdom. BP, after firming 4p to 358p, dropped back to 354p. Shell put on 2p to 348p and Lasso added 15p to 352p. Trelcentral rose 6p to 226p, and Ultramar 5p to 448p.

Equity turnover for June 9 was £131,828m (bargains 15,468). Active stocks, according to the Exchange Telegraph, were BP, ICI, Distillers and GEC.

Traded options: A total of 931 contracts were completed, Lasso attracted 21, Marks and Spencer 16, Lough 5, ICI 12, and GEC 4.

Latest results

Company	Sales	Profits	Earnings	Div	Pay	Year's
	£m	£m	per share	pence	pence	total
Im or Fin	7.27(17.73)	3.3(3.97)	29.7(46.9)	2.0(2.0)	6/8	4.9(3.0)
Barlow Hedges (F)	119.2(116.8)	6.5(11.38)	6.22(6.68)	3(7.25)	16/10	8(12.25)
B Elliott (F)	6.11(12.27)	0.58(1.12)	6.22(6.68)	1(1.5)	—	—
Elson & Robbins (I)	9.32(4.9)	0.88(0.92)	—	2.25(0)	26/8	—
F French (I)	4.77(4.67)	0.28(0.71)	9.59(18.93)	—	—	—
Geevor Tin (F)	375(366)	18.2(16.1)	10.7(9.0)	4.2(3.7)	—	4.25(8.5)
Hanson Tst (I)	—	0.13(4.62)	2.1(6.8)	1.07(1.07)	—	1.07(1.07)
L & O F (F)	15.9(13.1)	0.38(0.44)	8.02(8.02)	2.6(2.4)	—	3.51(3.25)
Nina Gold (F)	112.4(109.9)	10.8(12.5)	23.4(28.6)	5.5(5.5)	11/8	9.5(9.5)
Pegler Hst (F)	68.5(73.3)	10.5(14.3)	14.0(18.2)	4.75(5.5)	12/8	6.25(6.25)
Uit Spring (I)	9.78(15.1)	0.17(1.02)	1.62(4.08)	—	—	—
Westland Air (I)	118.4(105.4)	12.4(10.6)	11.6(12.1)	2.5(2.0)	30/6	—

Dividends in this table are shown net of tax on pence per share. Elsewhere in Business News dividends are shown on a gross basis. To establish gross multiply the net dividend by 1.428. Profits are shown pretax and earnings are net. — Loss; + Includes special dividend of 1.0p.

This advertisement has been issued by British Sugar Corporation Limited

WHEN DOES
2+2=3?

IF YOU
MAKE
A MISTAKE.

Put two mis-matched companies together and you have a recipe for industrial muddle. And that is the risk if Berisford takes over British Sugar.

British Sugar as an independent company has a first-class track record. Pre-tax profits have been increased six-fold since 1975; market share has been doubled. The £150 million investment programme to make key factories bigger and more efficient has been completed in time and to budget. British Sugar now has factories as good as the best in Europe.

Forecast pre-tax profits for 1981 are up by 43 per cent on 1980. Forecast dividends for 1981 are up by 43 per cent on 1980.

British Sugar is united against the bid. Senior management, the other employees and Trade Unions which represent them have expressed vigorous opposition.

Why? Simply because they recognise that Berisford are primarily commodity traders, and ill-equipped to manage a capital-intensive industrial company.

And Britain is hardly so full of industrial success stories like British Sugar's, that it makes sense for shareholders to gamble on a merger between two fundamentally mis-matched companies.

British Sugar should remain successful and independent — through shareholders rejecting this risky bid.

REJECT THE BID.

BRITISH SUGAR
CORPORATION LIMITED
THE RECORD SPEAKS FOR ITSELF

The publication of this advertisement has been approved by a duly authorised committee of the Board of British Sugar Corporation Limited. Each Director has taken all reasonable care to ensure that both the facts stated and the opinions expressed herein are fair and accurate. Each Director of British Sugar Corporation Limited accepts responsibility accordingly.

B Elliott slips to £6m despite overseas lift

By Rosemary Unsworth

Overseas results ensured that B. Elliott, the machine tool manufacturer and engineering products group, stayed in profit last year. Pretax profits slipped from £11.38m to £5.5m in the year to March 31, while turnover rose slightly from £116.8m to £119.2m, with more than half of that going abroad.

About 90 per cent of profits came from the overseas operations with South Africa contributing £4.7m and showing an 83 per cent increase. North America's profits were maintained at £900,000 while Australia doubled its result to £400,000.

In the UK, machine tool and engineering made losses of £600,000 against £2m profit and merchandising profits went down

sharply from £5.5m to £740,000. Mr Mark Russell, the chairman, warned that there would be UK losses in the first half of this year with order books at the present low levels.

The final dividend has been more than halved to 4.3p gross, giving a total of 11.42p against 17.5p last year. The shares rose 2p to 166p after the announcement.

The group has charged £2.14m in closure costs below the line and £640,000 above it for redundancies on continuing operations. During the year the group shed one third of its 3,000 workforce with three factories ceasing operations. Interest charges were up from £152,000 to £131,000 as borrowings rose from £476,000 to £6.6m.

Goldsmiths' 40 pc fall

After a more than doubled interest charge of £104,000, against £46,000, pretax profits of £648,000, to £383,000 in the year to February 28.

A break-down of profits shows that the retail jewelry side slumped from £443,000 to £175,000, while the bookmaking section was steady at £208,000, compared with £205,000. Group turnover expanded from £13.19m to £15.99m. The board has lifted the gross dividend from 4.64p to 5.01p.

Geevor Tin omits dividend after loss

No dividend is being paid for the 12 months to March 31, 1981, by Geevor Tin Mines, against a total of 12p gross for the previous year. The company slumped from a pretax profit of £714,000 to a loss of £285,000. Turnover improved slightly, from £4.67m to £4.77m.

Barlow Holdings pays special dividend

Barlow Holdings, the London-based plantation-owning and investment holding group, is paying a final dividend of 2.85p, as well as a special dividend of 1.42p, for 1980. This makes a total of 5.27p gross, against 4.28p gross last year. Pretax profits slipped from £3.97m to £3.3m on turnover down from £7.73m to £7.27m. Both the final and the special payment will be paid from realized profits on the sale of Klaba Estate of £3.64m net.

Trident Computer gets placing on USM

Singer and Friedlander has arranged the placings of the unlisted securities market of 375,000 ordinary 10p shares in Trident Computer Services at 90p per share. The placing represents 15 per cent of the issued share capital.

Trident's activities range from permanent staff recruitment and the maintenance of mini and micro computer systems and associated software to the provision of computer advice. Over the last five years profits have risen from £12,000 to £296,000. The forecast for the current year to July 31 is not less than £310,000. The directors intend to recommend a dividend of 1.0p.

Thomas French dips to £882,000

In spite of the recession, Thomas French and Sons achieved a pretax profit of £882,000 in the half-year to March 23, 1981. This compares with the record figure of £926,000 for the similar period last year. Turnover was up from £8.9m to £9.32m. The interim payment, gross, is being lifted from 2.85p to 3.21p.

French makes curtain styling products and electrical heating equipment.

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ABN Bank	12%
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Williams and Glyn's	12%

* 7 day deposit on sums of £50,000 10%.

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The Over-the-Counter Market

1980/81	High	Low	Company	Price	Ch'ge	Gross	Yld	P/E	July
76	39	39	Airprang Group	78	—	4.7	6.7	11.1	15.4
52	21	21	Armitage & Rhodes	48	—	1.4	2.9	19.8	45.7
200	92	92	Bardon Hill	200	—	9.7	4.9	7.5	12.8
104	88	88	Deborah Services	104	—	5.5	5.3	5.1	9.8
126	88	88	Frank Horsell	104	—	6.4	6.2	3.3	6.0
110	39	39	Frederick Parker	62	—	1.7	2.7	27.0	—
110	64	64	George Blair	64	—	3.1	4.8	—	—
110	39	39	Jackson Group	104	—	7.0	6.7	3.3	7.4
129	103	103	James Burroughs	129	—	7.9	6.1	10.6	10.6
334	244	244	Robert Jenkins	316	—	31.3	9.9	—	—
55	50	50	Scotons "A"	55	—	5.3	9.6	8.5	7.9
224	196	196	Tordax Limited	197	—	15.1	7.7	7.6	13.0
23	8	8	Twinkl Ord	15	—	—	—	—	—
90	68	68	Twinkl 15%, ULS	80	—	15.0	18.8	—	—
56	35	35	Uniblock Holdings	42	—	3.0	7.1	6.5	10.3
103	81	81	Walter Alexander	102	—	5.7	5.6	5.6	9.0
263	181	181	W. S. Yeates	255	—	13.1	5.2	4.8	9.8

Gilts rally

§ Forward bargains are permitted on two previous days.

This image shows a vertical strip of a document, possibly a page from a book or a page from a binder. The strip is dark and textured, with a vertical line running down the center. There are some faint, illegible markings and text visible, including what appears to be a small logo or emblem on the right side. The overall appearance is that of a scan of a physical document.

La creme de la creme

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Wembley Park

Roussel Laboratories, part of an international pharmaceutical company, are looking for an English/French bilingual Secretary, with 5-6 years' experience of working at senior management level. Your role will include assisting the Managing Director and his PA, as well as secretarial duties for the Manager of the Overseas Companies Division. This will include full involvement in the programmes for overseas visitors. It is unlikely anyone under 25 would have sufficient experience for this position which requires excellent secretarial skills (French shorthand is not needed), a friendly outgoing personality and a neat, well-groomed appearance.

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For an application form, please contact: Mrs Elizabeth Bedford, Roussel Laboratories, Roussel House, Wembley Park, Middlesex; HA9 0NF. Telephone: 01-903 1454.

ROUSSEL

P.A.

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'Wedgie-gate' tapes shock Labour MPs

By George Clark, Political Correspondent

Labour backbenchers heard with dismay last night about the so-called "Wedgie-gate" tapes which have been put together by Mr Michael Cocks, the Opposition chief whip, and which are alleged to contain Mr Wedgwood Benn's appeal for support in the contest for the deputy leadership of the party.

With Mr Benn extending his stay in hospital to a second week for further tests, his backbench supporters were angry that the Labour chief whip, a colleague in the Shadow Cabinet, should have used this method of "underhand attack", as they saw it.

The five-minute tape recording, which will be available for wider circulation to local Labour parties, consists of Mr Benn's voice speaking at the last Labour Party conference, and a counter-commentary. His speech was a virulent attack on the party leadership for not including many conference decisions in the last general election manifesto.

Mr Benn is heard to claim that five union-backed conference decisions, including those on the introduction of a wealth tax, import controls, increased public spending and a cut in arms spending, were left out of the manifesto.

Over his voice is superimposed the voice of a woman who quotes chapter and verse from the 1979 manifesto to counter Mr Benn's points.

A senior member of the party executive, a left-winger who is by no means a Bennite, said: "This is a smear campaign which in the end will turn out to be Mr Benn's advantage". He preferred not to be named because he is alarmed about the present schism in the party and the lengths to which some members are prepared to go.

Mr Cocks made the tape with the help of Mr Len Smith, a Bristol City Labour councillor, and Mr Smith's daughter, Mrs Margaret Ann Rishmiller.

Everything on the tape is a matter of public record, all I have done is to collate various points and now I want people to hear them", Mr Cocks said. "Everything said there is true and it is important that people should know. I do not see how



King Khalid and Mrs Thatcher after talks and luncheon at 10 Downing Street yesterday. Report, page 3.

Social worker criticized over baby

Continued from page 1

thin bone and bruising to her forehead, right cheek, below her right eye, and around her right knee and thigh. Subsequent examination of X-rays taken showed that she also had three fractured ribs.

Those injuries were the third sustained by the child, but because previous suspicions were not communicated, the incident was treated as an isolated one though sufficiently alarming for immediate action to be taken. The baby's father was charged and subsequently convicted of causing actual bodily harm. He was placed on probation for two years.

A case conference was convened at the hospital on January 23 and adjourned for a week while a safety order was obtained and more information gathered. The family doctor declined to attend the conference because he considered them a waste of time, for which the report criticizes him.

A representative of the juvenile bureau was also absent but two detectives, accompanied as well as a nursing officer, the health visitor who first took action, and two social workers from Southwark.

When the conference reconvened, relevant information about previous suspicions of abuse and feeding difficulties were not considered. Adminis-

trative decisions were taken, but the baby's future was not considered. She remained in hospital for nearly six months, while a succession of interim care orders were obtained.

She was finally discharged from hospital on June 13 to foster parents who could have taken her in February, which would have been a happy release, according to the report. A conference on July 6 decided that she should be sent home to her parents.

The first home visit was on July 25 when the probation officer collected her from the foster parents and delivered her to her parents, Lorraine and Osman, a 22-year-old Turkish Cypriot, then living at Thurlow Street, Southwark, London. The social worker visited that evening and found them "happy, relaxed and being very much a family". Then he went on leave and returned on the day of an official strike, which he joined. He never saw the child again.

Her home visits continued, with social work assistants taking over the job of collecting her from the foster home and taking her to her parents. Both assistants noticed that Maria had facial scratches and bruising, and the foster mother was worried about her condition.

A senior social worker failed to grasp the significance of

injuries reported to him and did not tell a superior. That was a serious error, the report says.

Despite the danger signals, a case conference on October 11 decided to continue with the plan to send the baby home full-time though still on trial and subject to a care order. She went home on October 16. Nine days later she was found to have lost 11.5oz in weight in a week, but the health visitor took no action.

She was admitted to hospital on October 31, suffering from severe brain damage, a fractured skull, a bite mark and multiple minor bruises. She died four days later. Her father was sentenced to nine months imprisonment for causing actual bodily harm, but cleared of manslaughter.

The report comments: "The surveillance during the final period was limited due to shortage of workers and leave periods but by the time of her return, full-time no extent of her condition could have been guaranteed her safety. As we have indicated the errors and failures came earlier."

Maria, Mohammed's daughter of an independent inquiry, published by London Borough of Southwark, Lambeth, Southwark and Lewisham Area Health Authority, and the Inner London Probation and After-care Service. Available from Southwark Town Hall, Peckham Road, London SE5 8UB, £5.50.

Petrol giants set to raise prices

By Edward Townsend

Mobil is expected to be the next oil company to announce a big increase in United Kingdom petrol prices from midnight tonight, adding up to 10p on a gallon of four-star.

The new round of increases comes after BP Oil's decision to end subsidies to its 5,000 BP and National filling stations in an attempt to end the petrol price war.

Esso and Shell, the market leaders, will also be raising their prices but will not make formal announcements until their retailers have been told.

About 60 per cent of Mobil's 1,200 petrol stations in Britain are in town and city centres. The company claims that its profit margins on sales have been more adversely affected by discounting than others.

Mobil calculates that in the highly competitive urban areas price support for retailers has averaged 10p a gallon. The new price increases, it hopes, will provide garages with a 7p a gallon margin, just enough to make a profit.

It is almost certain that all of the big oil companies will follow BP's lead and that rural price increases of between 15p and 16p will be commonplace.

Police take over from the ambulancemen

By Donald Macintyre, Labour Reporter

Police vans and squad cars were used to provide emergency cover yesterday after 500 Scottish ambulancemen staged an unannounced 24-hour strike which left the city of Glasgow without any service.

Ambulancemen in Strathclyde and Argyll walked out early in the morning after being told that local union officials had decided to call a lightning all-out strike, six days before next week's scheduled national one-day ban on all work except emergency calls.

Police, operating a contingency plan, ferried the injured and seriously ill people to hospital and by last night had handled 89 emergency calls. Police disclosed that personnel carried equipment with stretchers and blankets had been prepared in case of serious industrial or domestic accidents.

Police reported that most of the emergency calls had been patients who had collapsed from illness, including heart and asthma attacks. One of the most serious accidents, minutes after the strike began, was a head-on road crash just outside the Stobhill Hospital in the north-west of the city.

Local union officials said that the action, which had apparently been planned in secret on Tuesday, had attracted 100 per cent response in the affected areas, including Paisley and Greenock, and with a total population of 1.75 million.

Elsewhere, to the relief of some union officials, 530 Northern Ireland ambulancemen voted yesterday to support the union's call to join the officially planned stoppage on Wednesday. London ambulancemen are due to take part in a 24-hour strike on Monday in protest at the Department of Health and Social Security's 6 per cent pay offer.

Mr Ronald Keating, national officer of the National Union of Public Employees, said that the action in Scotland illustrated the strength of feeling.

"These people have seen the armed forces, the police and the firemen win rises which are more or less index linked and the ambulancemen feel they have been left out in the cold again", he said.

Mr John Elliott, Transport and General Workers' Union district officer in Glasgow, made clear last night that any plans for further lightning strikes in the west of Scotland would be considered by union officials today.

Scottish ambulancemen's leaders have issued a warning that they will again be on strike, calls when they take part in next Wednesday's national industrial action. Pressure in Wales and South Yorkshire was also said to have been building up for an all-out one-day action.

The Department of Health and Social Security last night told health authorities that troops would only be brought in if police and voluntary services proved incapable of coping with the effects of walkouts by ambulancemen.

Minister disturbed by film

By Nicholas Timmins

Mr Patrick Jenkin, Secretary of State for Social Services, said last night that ATV's programme *Silent Minority* was very moving and very disturbing. He added: "This is why I have asked the health authorities to investigate."

But the programme was wrong in stating that the Department of Health and Social Security's policy was to maintain the largest number of hospitals, and it had concentrated on some of the worst aspects of the care provided.

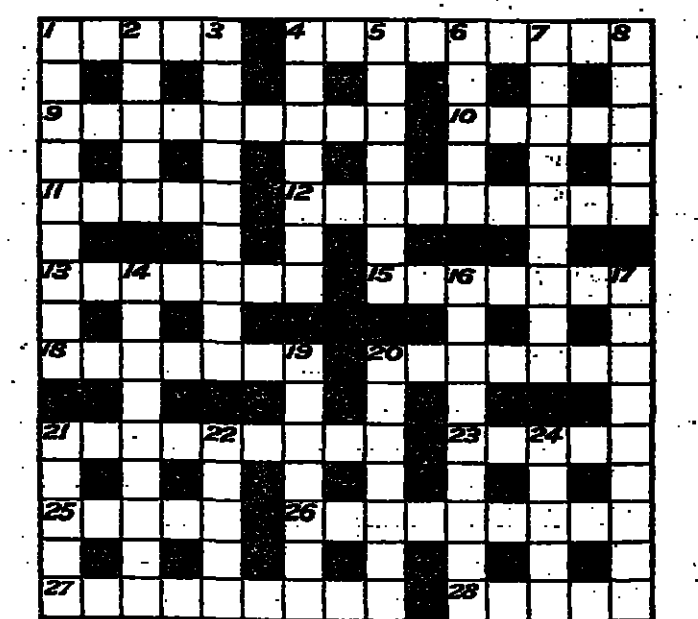
St Lawrence's Hospital, Caterham, one of the two hospitals featured in the programme, had some bungalow accommodation where patients lived much more normal lives

THE TIMES INFORMATION SERVICE

Today's events

The Queen opens National Westminster Tower, 11.30 am.
The Duke of Edinburgh, as Chancellor of University of Cambridge attends honorary degree ceremony and confers honorary degrees, Senate House, University of Cambridge, 10.35 am.
His Majesty King Khalid of Saudi Arabia entertains the Queen and the Duke of Edinburgh at a banquet, Claridge's, 8.30 pm.
Queen Elizabeth the Queen Mother opens physiotherapy department, King Edward VII Hospital for Officers, 3.30 pm.
Princess Margaret attends beating retreat by regimental bands of the Queen's Guard, Horse Guards, Whitehall, 6.25 pm.
The Duke of Gloucester visits South of England Show, Ardingly, Sussex, 10.30 am; attends banquet accompanied by the Duchess of Gloucester.

The Times Crossword No. 15,549



- ACROSS**
- Pay by a quarter to eight, perhaps (5).
 - Little boy and relatives found to be (9).
 - Musical might be played on board (9).
 - Nurse initially holds business to bar (7).
 - Another main centre for heat (5).
 - Current user of car becomes drunk without a complaint (4-5).
 - Inclined to favour the family man (7).
 - His love no longer missed (7).
 - Some surprise if it's raised (7).
 - He complains right after the game (7).
 - Play upon words? Just the opposite perhaps (9).
 - Demand made about letters in mail (5).
 - State of the Oriental scholar? (5).
 - Outfit for partner of 15 (9).
 - Fish makes how before dance (6-3).
 - Break in court proceedings (5).
- DOWN**
- Material of transport raised, and position of driver (9).
 - Rascal identified by accent - lost head (5).
 - Reading that would reveal a certain power (9).
 - A fit tonic, for treatment of an African banker (7).
 - Housing for two dozen singers (7).
 - Upholder of Turner's work? (5).
 - Weed seen by bird and haymaker (9).
 - Musical of the Muses? (5).
 - Exactness of summary upset no-one (9).
 - Entertainment patients found in museum, perhaps (4-5).
 - Mistle thrown at speaker in Devon (9).
 - Sound surprised the painter hasn't finished (7).
 - Side taken to cook - painful thing (7).
 - Funny little volume - order one in (5).
 - Author's predecessor remembered by Dr Watson (5).
 - Girl makes most of the French style (5).
- Solution of Puzzle No 15,548**
-

Gloucester given by King Khalid of Saudi Arabia, Claridge's, 8.15 pm.
The Duke of Kent, president of King Edward VII Hospital for Officers attends opening of new physiotherapy department by Queen Elizabeth the Queen Mother, 3.25 pm; accompanied by the Duchess of Kent attends Swedish Chamber of Commerce Dinner, Dorchester Hotel, 7.25 pm.
Festival of Flowers presented by National Association of Arrangement Societies, Westminster Abbey, 9 am-9 pm.
Antiquarian Book Fair, Europa Hotel, Grosvenor Square, 11 am-8 pm. Last day.
Talks, lectures
Excavating William Paget's Manor House by Jon Cotton, Museum of London, 1.10 pm.
Bath Geological Society: the water supply of Bath since Roman times by R J Whitaker, Kimball Room, 18 Queen Square, Bath, 7 pm.
Cuckoo, British Museum (Natural History), Cromwell Road, 3 pm.
Exhibitions
Royal Academy Schools finals exhibition, Royal Academy, Piccadilly, 10 am-6 pm. Last day.
"Trolleybus" - the story of the trolleybus from earliest experiments by von Siemens in Germany to the present day, London Transport Museum, 39 Wellington Street, 10 am-6 pm.
New Exhibition, 1, Arncliffe Gallery, Narrow Quay, Bristol, 11 am-8 pm.
Lunchtime music
Life Guards Band, Paternoster Square, noon.
Suzanne Pinkerton, soprano, Nicholas Byron, piano, St Mary-le-Bow, 1.05 pm.

Anniversaries

John Constable, painter, was born at East Bergholt, Suffolk, 1776, and Richard Strauss, composer, at Munich, 1864.

Roads

London and the South East: The ceremony of beating retreat will be performed again tonight. Horse Guards approach road will be closed from 5.30 pm, while restrictions in many other roads including Birdcage Walk and The Mall will be imposed at 6 pm for about two hours. There will be only one lane open on the southbound carriageway of the M1 between junctions 8 (Hemel Hempstead) and 7 (M10 interchange). This closure operates from 8 pm until 6 am.

New coins

Ten years after decimalisation the design of the penny and pence has been dropped from the reverse of the new coins. This has allowed the Royal Mint to divide the year date and simplify the reverse design of the coins. A presentation set of the seven coins, which includes the *Battle of Jorvik* commemorative one pound coin, is available from the Coinage Adviser, States Treasury, Jersey, CI, at a cost of £2.50. Details of the Royal Mint Proof Set of these coins are also available on request.

The papers

Prince Philip comes in for some criticism from the *Daily Mirror* today. He said yesterday that a few years ago people wanted more leisure today when they're not employed. Says the *Mirror*: "People want jobs which pay well enough for leisure to be enjoyed." The Prince's remark was immediately seized upon by some preachers views on the ambulance men's strike: people who deal in matters of life and death should be forbidden to strike - by law. And the *Daily Express* strongly supports Mr Whitlam's view that there should be no political interference with police operations.

Telegraph, Sheffield accuses the Government of turning a blind eye to the welsh of reports emphasizing the harm United Kingdom energy prices are doing. In a comment on "disinflation" against women, the Northern Echo, Darlington, says legislation is not the entire answer.

The Pound

	Bank buys	Bank sells
Australia \$	1.80	1.73
Austria Sch	34.40	32.30
Belgium Fr	80.50	76.50
Canada Cdn	2.26	2.24
Denmark Kr	15.18	14.48
Finland Mk	9.05	8.65
France Fr	11.40	10.90
Germany DM	4.60	4.50
Italy L	116.00	110.00
Hong Kong \$	11.20	10.60
Ireland £	1.32	1.26
Japan Yn	237.00	225.00
Netherlands Gld	5.38	5.12
Norway Kr	11.38	11.38
Portugal Esc	119.00	119.00
South Africa R	2.15	2.00
Spain Ptas	168.00	179.00
Sweden Kr	10.35	9.88
Switzerland Fr	2.26	2.24
USA \$	2.02	1.95
Yugoslavia Dnr	77.00	72.00

Auctions today

Sotheby's Bond St: Old Master drawings 10.30 and 2.30. Scientific instruments, watches and clocks 11.0 and 2.30. Printed books 11.30. **Christie's, South Kensington:** Oriental works of art 11.30. **King St:** English furniture, eastern rugs and carpets 11 and 2.30. **Finest and rarest wines:** 11.30. **Christie's, South Kensington:** Oriental works of art 10.30. **European ceramics:** 2.30. **Phillips, Blenheim St:** Books, ensembles, maps and memorabilia 1.30. **Scientific instruments, watches and clocks:** 11.0 and 2.30. **Printed books:** 11.30. **Christie's, South Kensington:** Oriental works of art 10.30. **European ceramics:** 2.30. **Phillips, Blenheim St:** Books, ensembles, maps and memorabilia 1.30. **Scientific instruments, watches and clocks:** 11.0 and 2.30. **Printed books:** 11.30.

Sporting fixtures

Cricket: Holt Products Trophy (11.30 to 6.30); Derbyshire v Australia, County championships (11.0 to 6.30). Gloucestershire v Northamptonshire at Bristol; Hampshire v Glamorgan at Bourne-mouth; Kent v Gloucestershire at Tunbridge Wells; Lancashire v Warwickshire at Manchester; Surrey v Worcestershire at the Oval. **Other matches:** (11.30 to 6.30): Cambridge University v Sussex at Cambridge; Oxford University v Middlesex at Oxford. **Equestrianism:** Cornwall Show at Wadebridge; South of England Show at Ardingly. **Golf:** Greater Manchester Open at Wilmslow; EGU Seniors championship at Copt Heath, Solihull. **Racing:** Meetings at Beverley, Newbury. **Rowing:** Cambridge May Races. **Tennis:** Queen's Club tournament; Sutton Court. **Yachting:** Weymouth Olympic Week.

Weather

Frontal trough will be slow moving in S but pressure will slowly build from NW.

Forecasts from 6 am to midnight

London, SE England, East Anglia: Mostly cloudy, some rain, mainly early and late; wind, moderate to fresh, locally strong westerly, becoming fair; max temp 18 to 20C (64 to 68F).
SW England, Central England, Channel Islands: S Wales: Mostly cloudy, rain or drizzle in places tending to die out inland, perhaps bright intervals in well sheltered places; moderate, wind SW, strong to gale, decreasing moderate; max temp 18 to 20C (64 to 68F).
Wales, E. central N England, N Wales: Outbreaks of rain doing out: wind variable, moderate, later NE; max temp 17C (63F).
NW England, Lake District, Isle of Man: Occasional rain then dry with sunny periods; wind E, then NE, moderate; max temp 17C (63F).
NE England: Occasional rain then sunny intervals; wind, mainly fresh, E to NE, moderate, locally fresh early; max temp 15C (59F).
Edinburgh, Dundee, Aberdeen, Central Highlands, Mersey Firth, NE, NW Scotland, Orkney, Shetland: Sunny intervals and showers; wind E then NE, moderate, locally fresh early; max temp 12 to 14C (54 to 57F).
SW Scotland, Glasgow, Argyll, N Ireland: Sunny periods and showers; wind E then NE, moderate; max temp 15 to 16C (59 to 61F).
Outlook for tomorrow and Saturday: Many places will be dry with sunny periods although rain will reach Ireland and Scotland on Saturday. Becoming warmer but cloudy, with some rain on Sunday.
Sea passenger: S. North Sea: Wind SE, becoming easterly, strong to gale, decreasing; sea, rough to very rough.
Strait of Dover, English Channel (E): Wind SW, strong to gale, decreasing fresh; sea, rough to very rough.
Puffin count: 3 (very low). Forecast of birds: 1 (very low). (The authors' Research Council.)

Lighting up time

London 9.47 pm to 11.13 pm
Aberdeen 9.56 pm to 11.22 pm
Birmingham 10.26 pm to 11.52 pm
Bristol 10.36 pm to 12.02 pm
Cardiff 10.46 pm to 12.12 pm
Edinburgh 10.56 pm to 12.22 pm
Glasgow 11.06 pm to 12.32 pm
Liverpool 11.16 pm to 12.42 pm
Manchester 11.26 pm to 12.52 pm
Newcastle 11.36 pm to 1.02 am
Nottingham 11.46 pm to 1.12 am
Plymouth 11.56 pm to 1.22 am
Reading 12.06 pm to 1.32 am
Sheffield 12.16 pm to 1.42 am
Southampton 12.26 pm to 1.52 am
Tottenham 12.36 pm to 2.02 am
Wolverhampton 12.46 pm to 2.12 am
Wrexham 12.56 pm to 2.22 am

Satellite predictions

Flare: give time of visibility, where rising, maximum elevation, and direction of motion. Asteroid: denotes entering or leaving orbit.
LUNAR: Moon 22.57-23.00
5° 45' SE; NE 22.24-22.38; SE 22.45-22.59; W 23.00-23.14; WNW 23.15-23.29; WNW 23.30-23.44; WNW 23.45-23.59; WNW 23.59-24.13; WNW 24.14-24.28; WNW 24.29-24.43; WNW 24.44-24.58; WNW 24.59-25.13; WNW 25.14-25.28; WNW 25.29-25.43; WNW 25.44-25.58; WNW 25.59-26.13; WNW 26.14-26.28; WNW 26.29-26.43; WNW 26.44-26.58; WNW 26.59-27.13; WNW 27.14-27.28; WNW 27.29-27.43; WNW 27.44-27.58; WNW 27.59-28.13; WNW 28.14-28.28; WNW 28.29-28.43; WNW 28.44-28.58; WNW 28.59-29.13; WNW 29.14-29.28; WNW 29.29-29.43; WNW 29.44-29.58; WNW 29.59-30.13; WNW 30.14-30.28; WNW 30.29-30.43; WNW 30.44-30.58; WNW 30.59-31.13; WNW 31.14-31.28; WNW 31.29-31.43; WNW 31.44-31.58; WNW 31.59-32.13; WNW 32.14-32.28; WNW 32.29-32.43; WNW 32.44-32.58; WNW 32.59-33.13; WNW 33.14-33.28; WNW 33.29-33.43; WNW 33.44-33.58; WNW 33.59-34.13; WNW 34.14-34.28; WNW 34.29-34.43; WNW 34.44-34.58; WNW 34.59-35.13; WNW 35.14-35.28; WNW 35.29-35.43; WNW 35.44-35.58; WNW 35.59-36.13; WNW 36.14-36.28; WNW 36.29-36.43; WNW 36.44-36.58; WNW 36.59-37.13; WNW 37.14-37.28; WNW 37.29-37.43; WNW 37.44-37.58; WNW 37.59-38.13; WNW 38.14-38.28; WNW 38.29-38.43; WNW 38.44-38.58; WNW 38.59-39.13; WNW 39.14-39.28; WNW 39.29-39.43; WNW 39.44-39.58; WNW 39.59-40.13; WNW 40.14-40.28; WNW 40.29-40.43; WNW 40.44-40.58; WNW 40.59-41.13; WNW 41.14-41.28; WNW 41.29-41.43; WNW 41.44-41.58; WNW 41.59-42.13; WNW 42.14-42.28; WNW 42.29-42.43; WNW 42.44-42.58; WNW 42.59-43.13; WNW 43.14-43.28; WNW 43.29-43.43; WNW 43.44-43.58; WNW 43.59-44.13; WNW 44.14-44.28; WNW 44.29-44.43; WNW 44.44-44.58; WNW 44.59-45.13; WNW 45.14-45.28; WNW 45.29-45.43; WNW 45.44-45.58; WNW 45.59-46.13; WNW 46.14-46.28; WNW 46.29-46.43; WNW 46.44-46.58; WNW 46.59-47.13; WNW 47.14-47.28; WNW 47.29-47.43; WNW 47.44-47.58; WNW 47.59-48.13; WNW 48.14-48.28; WNW 48.29-48.43; WNW 48.44-48.58; WNW 48.59-49.13; WNW 49.14-49.28; WNW 49.29-49.43; WNW 49.44-49.58; WNW 49.59-50.13; WNW 50.14-50.28; WNW 50.29-50.43; WNW 50.44-50.58; WNW 50.59-51.13; WNW 51.14-51.28; WNW 51.29-51.43; WNW 51.44-51.58; WNW 51.59-52.13; WNW 52.14-52.28; WNW 52.29-52.43; WNW 52.44-52.58; WNW 52.59-53.13; WNW 53.14-53.28; WNW 53.29-53.43; WNW 53.44-53.58; WNW 53.59-54.13; WNW 54.14-54.28; WNW 54.29-54.43; WNW 54.44-54.58; WNW 54.59-55.13; WNW 55.14-55.28; WNW 55.29-55.43; WNW 55.44-55.58; WNW 55.59-56.13; WNW 56.14-56.28; WNW 56.29-56.43; WNW 56.44-56.58; WNW 56.59-57.13; WNW 57.14-57.28; WNW 57.29-57.43; WNW 57.44-57.58; WNW 57.59-58.13; WNW 58.14-58.28; WNW 58.29-58.43; WNW 58.44-58.58; WNW 58.59-59.13; WNW 59.14-59.28; WNW 59.29-59.43; WNW 59.44-59.58; WNW 59.59-60.13; WNW 60.14-60.28; WNW 60.29-60.43; WNW 60.44-60.58; WNW 60.59-61.13; WNW 61.14-61.28; WNW 61.29-61.43; WNW 61.44-61.58; WNW 61.59-62.13; WNW 62.14-62.28; WNW 62.29-62.43; WNW 62.44-62.58; WNW 62.59-63.13; WNW 63.14-63.28; WNW 63.29-63.43; WNW 63.44-63.58; WNW 63.59-64.13; WNW 64.14-64.28; WNW 64.29-64.43; WNW 64.44-64.58; WNW 64.59-65.13; WNW 65.14-65.28; WNW 65.29-65.43; WNW 65.44-65.58; WNW 65.59-66.13; WNW 66.14-66.28; WNW 66.29-66.43; WNW 66.44-66.58; WNW 66.59-67.13; WNW 67.14-67.28; WNW 67.29-67.43; WNW 67.44-67.58; WNW 67.59-68.13; WNW 68.14-68.28; WNW 68.29-68.43; WNW 68.44-68.58; WNW 68.59-69.13; WNW 69.14-69.28; WNW 69.29-69.43; WNW 69.44-69.58; WNW 69.59-70.13; WNW 70.14-70.28; WNW 70.29-70.43; WNW 70.44-70.58; WNW 70.59-71.13; WNW 71.14-71.28; WNW 71.29-71.43; WNW 71.44-71.58; WNW 71.59-72.13; WNW 72.14-72.28; WNW 72.29-72.43; WNW 72.44-72.58; WNW 72.59-73.13; WNW 73.14-73.28; WNW 73.29-73.43; WNW 73.44-73.58; WNW 73.59-74.13; WNW 74.14-74.28; WNW 74.29-74.43; WNW 74.44-74.58; WNW 74.59-75.13; WNW 75.14-75.28; WNW 75.29-75.43; WNW 75.44-75.58; WNW 75.59-76.13; WNW 76.14-76.28; WNW 76.29-76.43; WNW 76.44-76.58; WNW 76.59-77.13; WNW 77.14-77.28; WNW 77.29-77.43; WNW 77.44-77.58; WNW 77.59-78.13; WNW 78.14-78.28; WNW 78.29-78.43; WNW 78.44-78.58; WNW 78.59-79.13; WNW 79.14-79.28; WNW 79.29-79.43; WNW 79.44-79.58; WNW 79.59-80.13; WNW 80.14-80.28; WNW 80.29-80.43; WNW 80.44-80.58; WNW 80.59-81.13; WNW 81.14-81.28; WNW 81.29-81.43; WNW 81.44-81.58; WNW 81.59-82.13; WNW 82.14-82.28; WNW 82.29-82.43; WNW 82.44-82.58; WNW 82.59-83.13; WNW 83.14-83.28; WNW 83.29-83.43; WNW 83.44-83.58; WNW 83.59-84.13; WNW 84.14-84.28; WNW 84.29-84.43; WNW 84.44-84.58; WNW 84.59-85.13; WNW 85.14-85.28; WNW 85.29-85.43; WNW 85.44-85.58; WNW 85.59-86.13; WNW 86.14-86.28; WNW 86.29-86.43; WNW 86.44-86.58; WNW 86.59-87.13; WNW 87.14-87.28; WNW 87.29-87.43; WNW 87.44-87.58; WNW 87.59-88.13; WNW 88.14-88.28; WNW 88.29-88.43; WNW 88.44-88.58; WNW 88.59-89.13; WNW 89.14-89.28; WNW 89.29-89.43; WNW 89.44-89.58; WNW 89.59-90.13; WNW 90.14-90.28; WNW 90.29-90.43; WNW 90.44-90.58; WNW 90.59-91.13; WNW 91.14-91.28; WNW 91.29-91.43; WNW 91.44-91.58; WNW 91.59-92.13; WNW 92.14-92.28; WNW 92.29-92.43; WNW 92.44-92.58; WNW 92.59-93.13; WNW 93.14-9